



Organization of
American States



Paramaribo, Suriname
February 29th – March 2nd, 2012

Innovation
Competitiveness
Development

Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012:

Opening Ceremony of Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012



The Ministry of Education and Community Development of Suriname, the Organization of American States and Virtual Educa coordinated an extensive program including **conferences, seminars and workshops** focused on **Innovation, Education and the use of ICTs**, as well as an **international exhibition**.

“A demonstration on Innovation and ICTs in Education with the 21st Century Classroom for children and their teachers, and initiatives for those of us, who still have no electricity nor connectivity and will prove to have the capacity to think innovatively and use modern technology.”

Marie Levens, OAS at the Opening Ceremony of Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012



José María Antón [Virtual Educa], Raymond Sapoen [Minister of Education and Community Development, Suriname], and Marie Levens [Organization of American States] in the signing of the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding).



Raymond Sapoen [Minister of Education and Community Development of the Republic of Suriname], Marie Levens [Director of Human Development, Education and Culture, Organization of American States], and Drs. Celcius W. Waterberg [Minister of Health of the Republic of Suriname] who visited Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012.



Carlos A. Chardón [Assistant Secretary of State for Governmental Affairs Puerto Rico], Tomás Galván [Promethean], Jorge Rey Valzacchi [Virtual Educa Cono Sur], Amado Güereña [Intel], and Ángel Dubón [Microsoft]

“ The Virtual Educa initiative will support the Ministry of Education of Suriname in its efforts to **increase the quality of education** among other things, **through the use of technology in education...** ”

Raymond Sapoen, Minister of Education and Community Development of the Republic of Suriname.



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21st Century Virtual Educa Classroom:

The 21st Century Virtual Educa Classroom was one of the highlights of the first Virtual Educa Caribbean. This project started in 2010 with the objective of bringing students and teachers closer to technology in the classroom.

This new method of teaching gives young students the necessary tools to prepare them for globalization and moves them forward from the traditional teaching methods.



Maria Valenzuela and Milagro Quiroz, Teachers of the 21st Century Virtual Educa Classroom.

Raymond Sapoen, Minister of Education and Community Development of Suriname

encouraging young participants to take advantage of technology to enhance their education.



Amado Güereña [Intel], Rafael Fernández [Royal Educational Technologies], Marie Levens [OAS], Raymon Sapoen [Ministry of Education], Milagro Quiroz [Teacher], and Enrique Ortiz [HP].

OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza visited

Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012, spending some time with the 21st Century Virtual Educa Classroom students, presenting them with their certificates.



Exhibition:



OAS Scholarships Booth (Department of Human Development, Education and Culture)

International agencies and local companies, academic institutions and other technology related enterprises showcased **initiatives related to innovation and technology in education.**



Educational Institutions

Local ICT Companies

International Companies



OAS Secretary General Insulza with Marie Levens, Director of the Department of Human Development, Education and Culture visiting the International Exhibition.

Participating Institutions:

Ministry of Education and Community Development of Suriname, Organization of American States, School of the XXI Century, Free University of Brussels and Stanford University, The BrainStreet Group, Sanch Electronix Ltd, Link International Productions Ltd, Zed Jamaica, Abus Technology, Vividview, International Reading Association, Sesame Workshop, PAUTA, Costa Rica Multilingüe, Pearson, HP, ETC International

Freight System - Enhancing Teaching and Learning Through Technology, UNAM - Centro de Enseñanza de Lenguas Extranjeras, Schrijversgroep 77, Kinderboeken festival, Museum Corpus, Stichting onderwijs ontwikkeling Commewijne, Associatie, Surinaamse ict bedrijven, Globe Suriname, Caribbean Export Barbados, etc.



Ministers of Education, of the OAS Member States, Vice Ministers of Education, of the OAS Member States, and other authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean visited Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012.

Conference:



The general public had the opportunity to learn about regional and international educational projects and initiatives in the exhibition at the Hermitage Mall, Paramaribo, Suriname.

Dr. Konrad Glogowski, Executive Director of Teachers Without Borders, lecturing about *"Teachers Teaching Teachers, Worldwide Self-driven, Mentor-Supported, and Instructor-Led Online Professional Development"*

education + technology = learning



Renowned experts in the hemisphere participated in the Seminar: **“Strengthening Higher Education Institutions for International Cooperation and Integral Development.”** This seminar resulted in the cooperation of institutions towards concrete actions.

Caroline Chin, Dean of the School of Technology of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.



- Bring the most innovative approaches in the field to generate ideas for common projects
- Bring together relevant stakeholders and experts
- Develop activities geared towards working together to find and combine synergies



Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Albert Ramdin speaks to participants during the seminar.



Dr. Sidin, President of Anton de Kom University of Suriname.



Participants from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Workshops:



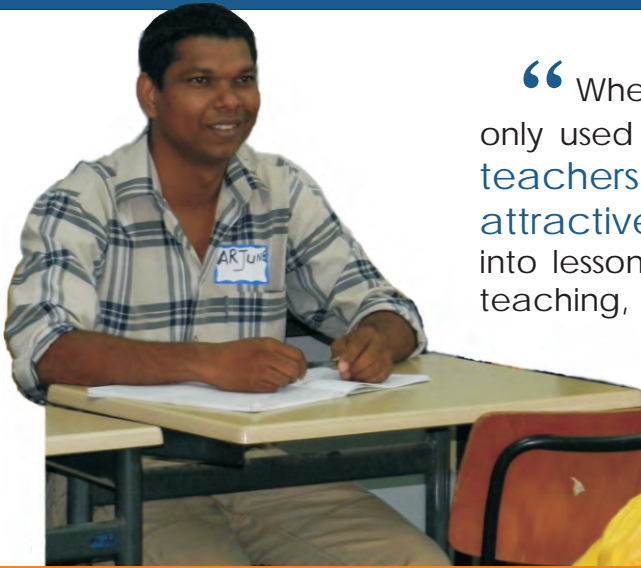
During Virtual Educa Caribbean 2012 there were a series of hands-on workshops on Digital Content Development, Design and Development of Student Centered Educational Software, Communities, and Teaching with Technology, Workshops on different topics continued to be implemented by the OAS in Suriname for over a month.



Workshops for **university students and faculty** to inform, train and guide them on issues regarding international educational opportunities.



Learning Goals:
Bring awareness and **develop skills in the use of ICTs** in education to local teachers and government officials.



“ When I talked about a computer in the classroom before, it was only used to type word documents. Because of the workshop teachers now know how to make what they teach more attractive to the children; How to use pictures, how to work them into lessons and enhance their education. Because when you are teaching, pupils have to be excited, if the teacher is here and the computer is there and you don't do anything with the computer, What is the excitement for the children? You need to have the tools, but most importantly, you need to know how to use them. ”



OAS Assistant Secretary General **Albert R. Ramdin** visited the Advanced Teachers Training College and had the opportunity to witness first hand the teachers attending the workshops.



The OAS through its Educational Portal of the Americas live-streamed workshops and conferences allowing everyone to have access to the online content.

OAS Educational Enhancement in the 21st Century Training Workshops

OAS Scholars:



Surinamese OAS Scholars Anne Stüger, Saskia Waiden, Gwendolyn Smith Emanuels, Cheryll-Ann Mans, Carolyn Gesling, and Wiston Roseval

During the first [Virtual Educa Caribbean](#) the OAS meet with local OAS Scholars in order to strengthen cooperation and exchange. Scholars shared experiences about their current achievements and future projects; they are all passionate about what they do, they are committed to their country, and share the idea that through education and development Suriname can greatly advance and develop further.

“My experience as an OAS Scholar made me more assertive and I like that.”

Wiston Roseval OAS Scholar



“My scholarship experience taught me that life is about attitude, you have to be able and willing to **solve problems** and come up with **solutions.**”

Saskia Walden OAS Scholar

Regional Impact

Department Director of Human Development, Education and Culture, Marie Levens and a group of OAS experts meet with regional **leaders in ICT, Education, Technology and Innovation** to discuss future projects and the impact that these events have in the Caribbean.



VII Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education:



The OAS presented **Virtual Educa Caribbean** and the overall impact it represented to the country to attending Ministers and Representatives, who showed great interest in future participation and congratulated the OAS for this great success.

“ Suriname was a great success and I look forward to seeing all of you in **Virtual Educa Panamá** ”

Ambassador Miguel Lecaro
Ministry of Education of Panama





“Now that you know where our country is located you can tell more people about our wonderful culture so they can come and visit.”

