Title of Session: GPBL-Projects That Make a Difference in the World
Moderator: Linda Ullah
Guest Speaker: William Yotive
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LindaU: Hi I'm Linda Ullah. I work at a community college in Los Altos CA. I run a technology staff development program for teachers here--I was an elementary school teacher for many years, then a technology learning coordinator before I took this job 5 years ago. While teaching I began doing collaborative projects with classes in other schools and countries... That sparked my interest in global project-based learning. Tell me a bit about who you are and why GPBL is of interest to you

TanviM joined the room.

TanviM: hello

LindaU: Hi Tanvi.. we are introducing ourselves

TanviM: Hi I am Tanvi

BJB2 waves hi. I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

TanviM: hi I am from univ of Houston

BJB2 . o O (please give a short intro telling us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach)

AshK: I'm an undergraduate student at the University of Houston and future bilingual teacher

EvaR: Hi I'm Eva. I am a preservice teacher in Houston, Texas. I attend the Univ of Houston. I plan to teach prek or k.

KimRob: Hi everyone. I'm Kim Roberson. I'm currently a 3rd grade teacher in Maryland. I am taking a class on Collaborative Project Based Learning but haven't really tried out a full fledged project based approach in my classroom

MariaCho: hi I'm an elem education major from univer of Houston

WilliamY: I am Project Manager of the Global Teaching and Learning Project at the United Nations. We create educational materials for K-12 schools around the world about the UN and all the global issues on its agenda.

KimRob: Also, this is my first time in a Tapped In chat. wish me luck

AdriaF: I'm Adria. I'm a pre-service teacher at University of Houston

AimeeH: I'm a graduate student out of University of Missouri-Columbia checking out Tapped In for an Internet class. I teach high school business in Missouri, this is my first time in a tapped in chat also.

VeronicaL: I'm Veronica I am a preservice teacher in Houston

CynthiaFl: Hi I am also a pre service teacher at the University of Houston, I hope to teach the fourth grade

HyunjooY: Hi I'm Hyunjoo and I'm in school of education at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

GretchenB: Hi. I'm Gretchen. I am a high school English teacher in Hull, IA. Right now, I am working on my master's degree in Ed Technology. This is also my first Tapped In chat.

HyunjooY: This is my first time participating Tapped In class.

VeronicaL: I plan to teach 2nd grade

LindaU: I want to introduce Bill Yotive Project Manager Global Teaching and Learning Project Educational Outreach Section

WilliamY waves

EvaR: Nice to meet you

HyunjooY: I'm in MA program and my interest is in Curriculum, technology and peace & conflict resolution.

CynthiaFl: hi

EmilyW: I am Emily and I am in Dallas, TX. I am a recent college graduate and web designer. I am interested in anything related to technology and learning.

KimRob: Hi Bill

TanviM: I am open for options for which grade i would like to teach

SusanR: Sue Roseman, K to 8 Occasional Teacher and host of The K to 3+ Great Resources twice monthly sessions here at TI..hello from Ottawa, Ontario

LindaU: Bill has a great Cyberbus project I'd like him to share with you.. You've got the floor, Bill

LindaU: The UN Cyberschoolbus--Pumped Up for Peace at http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/pufp/peru/about.asp is a new project being sponsored by the United Nations Cyberschoolbus to help communities around the globe that don't have access to safe drinking water.

WilliamY: Thanks.

AshK: how can public school teachers get their classes involved in this program?

HyunjooY: As a non native speaker, wow..it is a lot of sentences to read..^^

WilliamY: WE are sponsoring a global educational project for schools to participate in. The UN estimates that 1.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and we are going into communities that face this challenge to help them.

VeronicaL: that is so sad

WilliamY: The first community we are helping in an indigenous community in the Amazon rainforest in Peru.

EvaR: I'm so glad this type of organization exists.

AshK: are you accepting volunteers?

VeronicaL: it is good to get students involved at an early age

HyunjooY: How are you helping them?

LindaU understands... having recently picked up a parasite in Bangladesh...

WilliamY: They are very remote but have found that the rivers and streams going through their village are polluted with bacteria and viruses.

TanviM: that's interesting

EvaR: How is technology used

WilliamY: If you go to the URL that Linda has posted it explains everything about the project.

HyunjooY: William...so how are you assisting them?

KimRob: my question also Eva, how is tech used to assist

LindaU: Let's take a few minutes to explore... I'll post the url again

CynthiaFl: this sight is very interesting

LindaU: http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/pufp/peru/about.asp Click on the URL to go to the site

WilliamY: You will see a button to register. This is where schools can sign up to participate in the project. It is best to start with the slideshow however. This introduces you to the community and the challenges they face.

EvaR: Is there a fee to join?

VeronicaL: it is good to gets students involved because they always love to help

LindaU suggests that we take a look at the slide show.

LindaU: http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/pufp/peru/about.asp

AimeeH: My website is slow to come up.

CynthiaFl: I think it is great because the kids can use what they learn to inform those in their community

LindaU: That's okay Aimee.

WilliamY: There is no fee. This is being sponsored by the United Nations in an effort to help those that lack access to clean water.

SusanR: We need to make children aware and informed about the world's water supply

MariaCho: this is very interesting...

SusanR: at a young age

MariaCho: I agree Susan

MariaCho: because children nowadays do not know the importance of water supply

EvaR: I agree since Americans really don't seem to think about those things. We are so fortunate to have what we have

MariaCho: and don't realize that it lacks clean water in so many countries

WilliamY: When you go through the slide show explore the links we have inserted and click on the notebook icon to see what happens

VeronicaL: children at a young age are always so eager to help and getting them involved at a young age will help keep them motivated to help

HyunjooY: The idea is very good however, have you contacted the local people to find out their interests?

AimeeH: I lived in Thailand and I know the water there is bad, does this project reach there also?

EvaR: How are the countries considered to be receive this type of aid

AshK: as Americans we really need to become more active in assisting the Third World

WilliamY: We will be going to different communities with the same problem but this is the first one we chose to start with

VeronicaL: this program will help open children's eyes about issues that happen outside their community

LindaU: Several years ago now my elementary students (grades 3-6) did a water pollution project with high school students in Sao Paulo, Brazil. We studied our water shed and they studied theirs. We discovered chemical pollution and introduced species in our water.. they focused on organic pollution. I remember the day my students discovered that they had fecal matter in the water in Brazil... it changed their view of water pollution!

WilliamY: Hyunjoo, the slide show was put together with those who live in this community. They are aware of this project.

KimRob: Wow, Linda. That's powerful for anyone-I'm sure that was the case with you're children

LindaU: In Bangladesh there is not only organic pollution, but they have a huge problem with arsenic in the water..

MariaCho: so.. how can the students in our classrooms help with this project?

EvaR: Yes, please do inform about this

HyunjooY: William, Yes, but my point is that sometimes the local peoples needs can be covered by the purpose of the project....

WilliamY: Linda, what you say is interesting. One of the problems we have had in this village is to convince the adults to boil their water first. Many thought that it was okay to drink because it looks clear.

TanviM: I think this project is great idea

LindaU: What I like about the UN project is it focuses on helping people who live in areas like the Amazon in Peru

AshK: Is it relatively simple to establish correspondence with a class in another country, Linda?

HyunjooY: For example, even though the water issues is important, may be the local people would like to have food supply rather than the water quality improvement...

VeronicaL: so the people need to be educated as well

LindaU: Good question Ash.. Yes and no...

LindaU: Email makes it easy to correspond... language can be a barrier if you let it be..

GretchenB: Wow. There are great interdisciplinary ideas here. Science seems to be a focus of some activities. The acid rain activity looks good.

EvaR: Right...right starting sort of like a pen pal system

EvaR: through e-mail of course

HyunjooY: or sometimes their village have already supplied with the same project and they are meeting another same project. Although they received the same project before, for the local people it is better for them to say yes than saying yes to the same new project...

WilliamY: Good point Hyunjoo. The people in this village recognized the importance of this project because everyone is getting sick from the water. Nothing gets done without their approval.

HyunjooY: So..my point is that..whether this situations has been researched and the project has been properly implemented

LindaU: Also technology can be a barrier because internet connections in emerging countries is slow and expensive, and in some places they still don't have phones, electricity, etc...

EvaR: so then how can technology be utilized, if in any way

HyunjooY: it is better to say yes than no...in local people's perspective..

HyunjooY: Thanx for the answer...my typing is quite slow...

KimRob: So, other than communication, how is technology being utilized to assist others with improving their water supply, etc

WilliamY: The unique part of this project is that the children and adults are involved in every aspect. The slide show does a good job of addressing your questions I think.

LindaU: Good question Kim.. Perhaps Bill has an answer..

WilliamY: On one level, technology is brining schools from around the world together to help this remote community. On another level we will be adding discussion forums soon for participating schools to talk to each other and share information.

CynthiaFl: me too

AshK: how many schools are already on board?

VeronicaL: that is good to have schools share info

LindaU: Bill, I believe there are other Cyberbus projects... Is that so?

WilliamY: Last time I looked it was over 70.

WilliamY: Yes, Linda there are. Can browse our web site to get an idea of other projects we have www.cyberschoolbus.un.org

VeronicaL: that is a good number of schools

LindaU: Are there any particular projects at http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org that you'd like us to look at?

LindaU: This is a FANTASTIC resource for teachers!

WilliamY: The site on the Millennium Development Goals is an important one right now. We are just beginning to develop this project. We hope to have significant input from youth around the world on this one.

AshK: What type of projects did you involve your students in, Linda/

HyunjooY: so How is the classroom discussion after participating in the project? What do the students talk about?

VeronicaL: cool website

SusanR: http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/worldhealthday2003/index_full.asp .. this explains it for young students

KimRob: Thanks David, I'm seeing everything now w/out being kicked off

CynthiaFl: Great for Social Studies

SusanR . o O (a day in the life)

VeronicaL: and science

HyunjooY: I see there is a section where children can ask to an expert.

AdriaF: this is a great website. I will have to go back to it when I have more time

MariaCho: if the students are interested and want to participate in the project... can they and what can they do?

HyunjooY: How did you organize this connection?

AshK: these projects seem to touch on several content area (science, social studies, math)

VeronicaL: that is good having the students ask questions

LindaU: We did the old National Geographic Kids Network projects on Acid Rain, Water pollution, trash/recycling, etc... These are no longer available.. but they were wonderful projects authored by Monica Bradsher... We colaborated online through a central NGKN "mailbox...

LindaU: We also did the Jason Project http://www.jasonproject.org for several years..

VeronicaL: there are so many extensions of lessons to be done

LindaU: Are you familiar with the Jason project?

AshK: no

WilliamY: Check out our feature called Ask an Ambassador. Every couple of months an ambassador to the UN agrees to answers students' questions. This is becoming a popular feature on our site as well.

AshK: let's hear about it

LindaU: It was founded by Dr. Robert Ballard (discoverer of the Titanic)

KimRob: This is great! I'm currently working on a project with my students about how pollution in the Chesapeake is affecting our water supply in Maryland. This is great to provide a comparison for how unsafe water is affecting children in ways in other places. Thx.

AdriaF: that's cool

HyunjooY: That's a great feature

EvaR: How interesting.

MariaCho: jasonproject site is very interesting

MariaCho: with so many resources

LindaU: Each year he connects students with research scientists in the field

AdriaF: I bet the kids really like getting answers from an ambassador

LindaU: It is an awesome experience for kids.

KimRob: I'd like to read more about it and may participate. I like being able to ask a UN expert

EvaR: I bet they really feel important

AshK: How old were the students that participated?

CynthiaFl: how do you find such great resources?

LindaU: Notice that pollution is a huge topic for many international collaborative projects

EvaR: I will keep this site in mind when I am a teacher

VeronicaL: how many students participated

WilliamY: participated in what?

GretchenB: All the curriculum materials available on this site look very interesting. I will definitely recommend this site to my friends who teach in the elementary -- especially social studies and science teachers.

LindaU: again I was working with 3-6th graders..

AshK: the Jason project

WilliamY: I don't know that age range for the Jason project

LindaU: The Jason project is I believe for 4th -12th graders

VeronicaL: that is a good range

EvaR: Do you have any appropriate sites for early childhood teachers

LindaU: The water pollution project we did with the Brazilian school is still posted at
http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html

EvaR: Thank you for the resource

LindaU: With young children I'd suggest ePal projects that are multicultural exchanges.

EvaR: How does that work

LindaU: ePals are an excellent way to get started with global project based learning. These are great for cultural and language exchanges. http://www.epals.com/

HyunjooY: As next project, if you can touch Nile River in Africa, it can bring conflict issues in the area and increase awareness for peace along with water issues.

GretchenB: Ok -- so as I'm looking deeper into these curriculum units I see that many of them are geared toward high school kids, too. That's great. Often times high schoolers don't get to be involved in these types of interactive projects enough.

SusanR . o O (epals located here in Ottawa, Ontario)

LindaU: Good point Hyunjoo...

LindaU: David knows Gilroy...hmmm

LindaU: Yes, Susan

WilliamY: Hyunjoo, what you say is very important. The UN estimates that water will be increasingly a source of conflict. Over 200 rivers and lakes are shared by two or more countries and as is gets more scarce conflict will follow.

LindaU: Projects around cultural awareness can help to bring world peace (hopefully).

MariaCho: I'm looking at the epal website .. it seems really interesting and great for students and teachers

EvaR: Is there a fee to join epals

LindaU: Eva, I don't believe so.

MariaCho: it even has a epal mentor.. that's great

CynthiaFl: that's good

AshK: Linda, did you have your students create a school-wide campaign?

EvaR: good question

AshK: did they get other classes involved?

LindaU: Perhaps if I'd stayed in the classroom that would have been a direction I'd gone.... I'd hoped to connect water pollution projects around the world.. but I left the classroom and started working with teachers.

HyunjooY: Especially in America, you can also talk about the border river between US and Mexico

VeronicaL: good point

LindaU: See http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/. It is an online GPBL course we teach here at Foothill College

HyunjooY: It is not only security issue...but because of the pollution, people who try to cross the river actually die because of the polluted water.

TanviM: interesting

VeronicaL: there is such a problem with water pollution just south of the border we should take into consideration

KimRob: I'm thinking from an elementary level...we have so many students who speak English as a second language in our classrooms now and since communication throughout the sites could be in a native language of one of our students, this could be a time for one of our students who do not speak English as their primary language to shine

VeronicaL: it is close to home

AshK: many of my future students will have crossed illegally and could relate

AdriaF: I think people need to be more aware of the pollution problem

HyunjooY: And it can be a good example to how US and Mexico is cooperating to deal with the water pollution issue in that area.

AdriaF: That is true Ash. In the school I am in right now, I wonder how many of those kids did cross illegally

MariaCho: even last week.. our first graders learned about recycling and water pollution on earth day

AshK: international cooperation is certainly an important lesson for us all

MariaCho: and they enjoyed learning new facts that were very important

LindaU: Here is a project of a teacher who teachers in a Dual language emersion school (English/Spanish Underdahl, http://www.ewyl.net/kunderdal/index.html 4th grade teacher in Mountain View CA has had her student involved in an email penpal project with students in Nicaragua. They have shared their environmental studies and field trips. This is a great example of a teacher created global project.

EvaR: Talking about second language speakers, do you have information in Spanish

WilliamY: Pollution is a big issue but one thing that people don't realize is that much of the water is wasted through leaks in agricultural irrigation systems.

HyunjooY: yes..that's very true....

MariaCho: that is great Linda..e-mailing friends in another country....

HyunjooY: but the more important issue can be found in our daily uses...

AshK: how exactly is the water cycle interrupted in that way, William?

EvaR: That's what I exactly referring to. Thanks for the tip

LindaU: and the chemical fertilizers that leach into our water supply.

WilliamY: Our web site is in Spanish as well. Our water project can be found on our Spanish web site.

DavidWe: Linda, my cousin, lives in Washington State, studies ground water pollution for the US Geological Survey

EvaR: Please do provide the website

KimRob: NEAT, This will be great for our students because Spanish speaking younger students sometimes seem embarrassed about using another language

LindaU: Good Point David... Children can and do meaningful research for real organizations!

WilliamY: http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/spanish/pufp/peru/about.asp

EvaR: It will keep parents aware of what going on in their own native language

KimRob: Good Point, Eva

AshK: this is a great way for the students to put their bilingualism into action

AshK: it can really demonstrate to them the advantage they have

WilliamY: http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/spanish/index.asp

LindaU: Free the Children http://www.freethechildren.com is an impressive project. It was begun by Craig Kielburger in Toronto, Canada when he was just 12 years old. Craig is not in his 20s and the organization he formed and his varied projects continue to make an impressive difference for the children of the world.

VeronicaL: that is any language not just Spanish

AshK: of course

VeronicaL: feeling embarrassed about speaking English

EvaR: I remember when I used to do that. Between the messenger between my parents and the teacher on parent night

KimRob: That's true

CrissaC: I'll make sure never to do that to my kids

LindaU: When we did the project with Brazil, many of my students were native Spanish speakers...who discovered they could read Portuguese because of the similarity of the languages

KimRob: Wow, neat discovery

EvaR: That

DavidWe hopes Linda has some Brazilian friends who will let him sleep on their couches

CrissaC: that's awesome, I wish I knew mult. languages

DavidWe . o O (Languages are great!)

EvaR: That's true Spanish is similar to other languages like Italian and French

VeronicaL: true

LindaU: It was powerful...and when we had visitors from the Univ of Sao Paulo and the Brazilian Ministry of Educ. these Spanish speakers took a lead role in giving them the school tour and presenting their projects.

KimRob: I think American's tend to appear as though you have to someone relinquish your language (or traditions) in order to embrace America. Some American's anyway

LindaU: it elevated their status both in their own minds and among their peers.

KimRob: And I guess I'm speaking from more of a teacher perspective when we have to teach ESL kids we cannot communicate to them in their own language we have to use English in speech, tests, etc. It's kind of sad

AimeeH: Thanks for the resources, I'll have to find a way to use them in my business classes and show them to the science and social studies teachers. The only foreign language where I am is hillbilly   My kids are having dinner issues...

EvaR: My goal as future bilingual teacher is help over come that way of thinking

LindaU: Kim... this perception is a problem. I agree.

DavidWe: That's a great goal, Eva

CrissaC: I have so much respect for students that know two languages

CrissaC: I had a hard enough time with one

HyunjooY: Kim, actually that appeared in my classroom discussion and truely until certain stage....some times school need one or two people at school you can be an interpreter.

DavidWe smiles

HyunjooY: Especially, communication with parents, relying on student as interpreter actually creates many further problems.

KimRob: The whole "melting pot" theory still exists and it truly shouldn't. I see participation in the

MariaCho: that's why more and more schools require ESL certification now

LindaU: This is another reason why global projects can be so powerful.. You can utilize the language skills of your language minority students.

MariaCho: so that you will be able to incorporate and manage ESL students...

GretchenB: Speaking of diversity, I just ran across a Lesson of Ethnic Discrimination on the UN Cyberschoolbus website. It is aimed at promoting understanding of different ethnicities and cultures. The activities look very interesting. I'm going to plan to use them while or after my 10th grade students read To Kill a Mockingbird.

AshK: I notice sub cultures developing, such as Chicano culture which is not Mexican or "mainstream" American

KimRob: **HyunjooY**, I think that it would be a good idea for ESL students to be able to teach us in their native languages and we are able to teach them English simultaneously. Having an interpreter helps but it still sinks us into the melting pot theory

EvaR: So since we are talking about languages. In what other languages to you expose this type of awareness? What do you hope to translate the website to?

AshK: some melting is necessary, but we must validate all cultural backgrounds

KimRob: Eva , good question for Bill

KimRob: I agree to some extent, Ash

HyunjooY: Ash, good point. Do you have good suggestion for that?

LindaU: I do want to be sure that those of us in industrialized countries value all cultures and languages.

WilliamY: The UN has 6 official languages, English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.

EvaR: Interesting

AshK: intercultural exchange among students in public schools

KimRob: William, does your site transpose into those six languages

HyunjooY: William, Actually, rather than translating the same project website, maybe having each individual country to initiate the similar project.

HyunjooY: would be great.

KimRob: Hyunjoo, even better idea

DavidWe: Should all high school students spend 6 months in another country, as part of the requirements for high school graduation?

EvaR: Is it easy to transpose to a different language in the website?

HyunjooY: Because, most of countries have their national committing for UNESCO.

KimRob: That would be good, but how do you ensure that students afford that. Then we would be in a similar situation as the digital divide, **DavidWe**

DavidWe . o O (babblefish.com - I think - translates web pages)

HyunjooY: And national commission of UNESCO is sometimes connected to national education board or ministry.

DavidWe: Schools would provide for it - like books, computers, etc.

KimRob: translate.com, too

WilliamY: Yes but we don't have the same content available in all languages. We are working on it. Right now we have the most content in English followed by Spanish and French. We are still weak in the other languages although there will a lot more available for teachers in the near future.

HyunjooY: So if you can put this proposal to UNESCO and have them think about it, it can be a good starting point.

LindaU used Babblefish for the Brazilian Water Pollution project

EvaR: I love to use translate.com

MariaCho: what's translate.com Eva??

AshK: this is all very exciting, we all need to try to put these ideas into practice

EvaR: I agree

WilliamY: We work closely with UNESCO. Unfortunately they have the same problems we have in terms of limited budgets.

KimRob: Well, sorry guys but I have to go. thx for the resources and for making this a great first experience at Tapped In. I'll try to check out the K-3+ Resource Room, next. G-nite (or afternoon, depending on where u r)

HyunjooY: As coming from background working on speech recognition and synthesis research, and from experience of developing translation tools, they are not reliable.

DavidWe . o O (we ALL have limited budgets, I believe)

EvaR: How does your organization get the monetary resources you currently have? Donors?

LindaU: We have actually gone past our time.. You all are a GREAT group! This was a fantastic discussion!!!!!

WilliamY waves goodbye

DavidWe thanks Linda for leading the discussion

DavidWe: Good job, Linda!

LindaU: Thank you David... This was fun!