Bond
children
across the World
on the Net

Bond children across the World on the Net

Pangaea is the non-profit organization that researches, develops and implements Universal Playground where children across the world can meet, communicate and bond for the realization of the diversified global society that learns how to communicate smartly with the positive use of information and communication technology for peacemaking. It is named after the ancient supercontinent when five continents were a single piece.

> *Vision* - Diversified global society that learns how to communicate

> *Mission* - Global implementation of Universal Playground

What is Universal Playground?

The world is divided by the difference of nations, cultures, languages, time zones and social statuses. Imagine Universal Playground as the park where children across the world are waiting in the same queue for their turn of swing or slide regardless of these differences. First, they are shy. But as they meet many times and incidentally bump into each other, the conversation starts and they may become friends.

Pangaea's Universal Playground is realized by both off-line group works of local children at each activity site and by the use of safe and secure PangaeaNet, the virtual globe, where each activity site is represented as the village. Each child has one's own house and room there, to store one's profile, artworks, sound files and videos. Children need to ask for and obtain the invitation cards form their international friends to visit their rooms to see their collections.

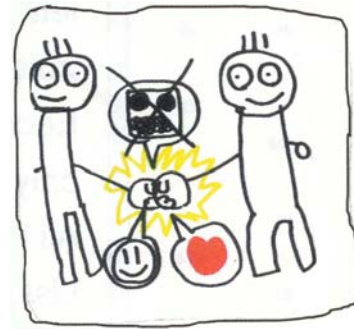Popular game of Kenyan children

How It Started

It started on September 11, 2001 when Yumiko Mori, the President of Pangaea, and Toshiyuki Takasaki, the co-founder & CTO, barely missed the flight that crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after being hijacked, due to the last-minutes schedule change. As much as the incident was shocking, the subsequent reaction to Arab or Islam in US was alarming for them. As survivors, they felt that they were given a mission to do something about it, and they started Pangaea.

Technologies

Picton

Picton is the pictogram used in Pangaea activities to break the language barrier and to promote heart-to-heart communication. Children can send Picton mails to each other over PangaeaNet. Single thing, event or the idea are expressed with different images depending on the cultural background of each child.

Picton drawn by a child in Tokyo

Webcam

Webcam activities are designed to offer real-time interaction among children by connecting multiple activity sites, by web cameras. Children who have already known each other on PangaeaNet can develop a deeper sense of "bonding" by experiencing face-to-face communication and playing original games via web cameras.
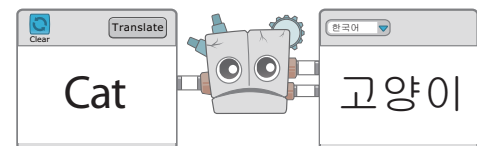

Malaysian children

Language Grid

Language grid is another technology used in Pangaea activity and for volunteer community to break the language barrier. It is the multilingual service infrastructure to enable sharing of the registered language resources such as dictionaries and translation software on the Internet.
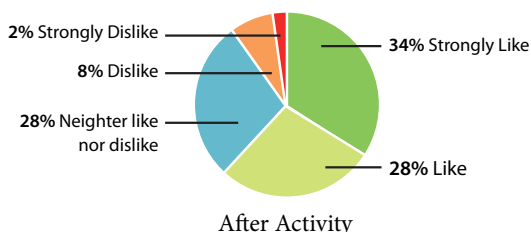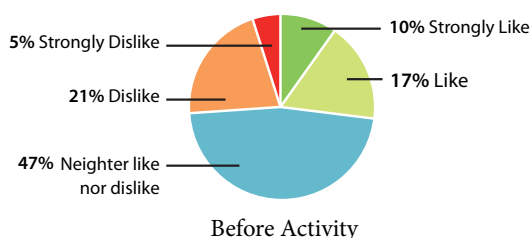
* Basic software of Language Grid is researched, developed and publicized by National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, and run by Department of Social Informatics, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University for its non-profit users.

Website: http://langrid.nict.go.jp/en/project.html

Gengoro, the translation assistance robot

Q: Please rate your current feelings toward Japanese participants.

10% Strongly Like
17% Like
5% Strongly Dislike
21% Dislike
47% Neither like nor dislike

Before Activity

2% Strongly Dislike
8% Dislike
28% Neither like nor dislike
34% Strongly Like
28% Like

After Activity

Voice of Participants

The rate of Korean children who answered they either strongly like or like Japanese participants before Webcam activity was 27%, which went up to 62% after it.

* The data is taken from eight Webcam activities held between Nov 2005 and Feb 2010.

Contact

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