

ABOUT AEC-NET

The 9th AEC-NET Conference is organised by the **Asia-Europe Foundation** under its **Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)** programme. Launched in December 1998, the **AEC-NET** is an ASEF flagship programme that aims at fostering collaborations among secondary and high school teachers and students in Asia and Europe. Formerly known as the Asia-Europe Classroom (AEC), it was conceived through a brainstorm session held in May 1998 at Copenhagen, Denmark, and attended by secondary and high school teachers from Asia and Europe.



Harnessing the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), secondary and high schools of Asia and Europe are connected through a "cyber classroom". This promotes intellectual and inter-cultural exchanges among secondary and high school teachers and students of Asia and Europe. The AEC today encourages active interactions between secondary and high schools in Asia and Europe.

A Co-ordinating Committee works to provide academic criteria for evaluating the different activities held under the AEC-NET programme. It also advises on direction, action plans and strategies for the future of the programme.

Besides the annual Conference, the AEC-NET programme also encompasses various Asia-Europe Classroom online collaborative learning projects. This involves different groups of students from secondary and high schools of Asia and Europe.

AEC PROJECTS

To date almost 150 AEC Projects have been successfully implemented. These AEC Projects are online collaborative projects developed by members of the AEC-NET. Each project incorporates a component of intercultural exchange and learning through the use of ICT. Developed during the annual AEC-NET Conference, these projects are based on the framework that educators have worked out at these conferences. The educators then return to their respective schools to develop further and implement their projects with the involvement of their students, during the course of the academic year. The six most outstanding AEC Projects are then shortlisted every year as finalists for the AEC Award. The three most innovative, effective and sustainable online projects win the annual AEC awards. For more information about this year's Awards visit http://aec.asef.org/aecnet/current_conferences_awardfinalists.html.

AEC-NET CONFERENCE

Held in Gurgaon, National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, India, from 12 to 16 November 2010, the theme of **9th Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) Conference** is *Climate Change and Biodiversity: How They are Connected and the Impact of Biodiversity Losses in the Community in Asia and Europe*. It aims at raising environmental awareness among teachers in Asia and Europe, enabling them to initiate concrete action for protecting the environment in their own school community. The 9th AEC-NET Conference is co-organised by ASEF and St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, India, and supported by the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The AEC-NET Conference gathers annually secondary and high school educators from Asia and Europe who take a keen interest in fostering among their students innovative and interactive collaborations through online learning and inter-cultural exchanges. The Conference is usually held over a period of four days, and comprises four essential components:

- **Professional Enrichment for AEC-NET members.** Internationally-recognised experts are invited to give presentations on topics related to the conference theme.

- **Review of past AEC Projects and presentation of new AEC Project proposals.** Participants review the results of the AEC on-line collaborative learning projects that had been developed in the preceding year including the six projects shortlisted for consideration by the judges of the annual three AEC Awards. Participants are also encouraged to submit proposals for on-line collaborative learning projects that teachers and students could develop over the course of the next six to nine months. These proposals are presented and further developed in different Working Groups during the conference. At the end of the working group session, each Project Group should have finalised the discussion on the project implementation plan.
- **Introduction to Host Country.** Activities organised on site include visits to places of cultural and historical significance in the host country. Its approach to secondary and high school education may include visits to schools or specialised training centres for teachers. This gives the participants a better understanding of the different aspects of the host country.
- **Networking.** Outside of the plenary sessions and the working groups, participants are given adequate opportunities to interact with one another at the social level. This often engenders camaraderie among participants, fostering networks for future contacts and collaborations.

More details about the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) are also available on AEC-NET's official website: <http://aec.asef.org>

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