



9TH ASIA-EUROPE CLASSROOM NETWORK CONFERENCE



Climate Change and Biodiversity:
How They are Connected and the Impact of
Biodiversity Loss in the Community in Asia
and Europe

12-16 November 2010
Gurgaon, India

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Intercultural online learning projects commended at 9th Asia-Europe Classroom Network Conference

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) recognised three of the best online intercultural learning projects through the Asia-Europe Classroom (AEC) Award at its 9th Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) Conference.

The annual AEC Award recognises innovative, effective and sustainable online projects for Asian and European students to learn from each other. These interactive and intercultural online projects are planned and facilitated by secondary and high school teachers from Asia and Europe.

Six finalists were shortlisted from over 30 entries from schools in Asia and Europe. The three winning projects will receive a cash prize of 2,000 euros each, to develop further their project or as seed funding for new online collaborations.

The three winning projects are: "Eco Tourists' Passports" coordinated by Pioneer Secondary School, Singapore; "Five Times Five" coordinated by Upper Secondary School in Ystad, Sweden; and "WHAZZUP? 2009-2010" coordinated by Kaarina Senior High School, Finland. (See Annex for the full list of finalists)

The AEC Award is part of the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) Programme. The focus of this year's Conference was on *Climate Change and Biodiversity: How They are Connected and the Impact of Biodiversity Losses in the Community in Asia and Europe*. The Conference specifically aimed to raise the environmental awareness of teachers in Asia and Europe, enabling them to initiate concrete action for protecting the environment in their own school community.

The 9th Asia-Europe Classroom Network Conference was co-organised by ASEF and St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, India, with support from the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development.

St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School is currently the only Indian school to be a registered member of AEC-NET. The school has participated in previous AEC Conferences at Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (in 2008) and Sønderborg, Denmark (in 2009).

More information about the AEC-NET Conference can be found at <http://aec.asef.org>

Programme contact:

Ms Angie TOH

People-to-People Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation

T. +65 6874 9716 | F. +65 6872 1207 | e-mail: angietoh@asef.org

Media contact:

Ms Malgorzata KLIMOWICZ

Public Affairs, Asia-Europe Foundation

T. +65 9833 6742 | F. +65 6872 1206 | e-mail: malgorzata.klimowicz@asef.org

About the organisers:



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseinfoboard.org



St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, Meera Bagh, New Delhi, was inaugurated on 20 April 1990. With a strength of approximately 4000 students, this CBSE affiliated co-educational English medium institution excels in all spheres. The school building is set amidst beautiful green lawns and has all facilities required for an all round development of children, such as well stocked libraries and well-equipped laboratories for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Home Science, Computer Science, etc.

Under the canopy of the school motto, 'Loyalty, Truth and Honour', the staff and the management of St. Mark's endeavour not only to enable students to compete with others for a place in professional outlets, but also imbue them with social awareness, pride in their rich cultural heritage and a sense of responsibility towards the nation. The school believes in giving an international exposure to its

students and teachers. Hence they are a part of number of global projects and student exchange programmes. St. Mark's School is the only school from India who is a member of AEC-NET. www.saintmarksschool.com

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Asia-Europe Classroom Network

AEC Award Finalists for 2010

The **AEC Award** seeks to encourage innovative, effective and sustainable online intercultural learning platforms by secondary and high school educators to connect students from Asia and Europe.

Each year, six short-listed finalists will compete for three AEC Awards each of a cash prize of 2,000 EUR. The prize can be used by the winning team to further develop the winning projects, or to initiate new ICT collaborative projects.



Short-listed projects are judged based on:

- Establishing collaborative partnerships (level of involvement, duration of project)
- Advancing cultural understanding between Asia and Europe
- Outreach to other learners and/or the local community
- Effective application of ICT tools in promoting intercultural learning
- Quality of overall presentation of the project
- Project implementation (planning and execution process)

JUDGES

- **Mr ZHANG Hongtie**, Director, People-to-People Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation
- **Ms Aarti Khosla**, Senior Manager- Programme Communications and Campaigns, WWF in India
- **Mr Rolando INCIONG**, Head of Communication and Public Affairs, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

FINALISTS FOR 2010 AEC AWARD

AEC Projects are online collaborative projects developed by members of the Asia-Europe Classroom Network. Each project incorporates a component of intercultural exchange and learning through the use of ICT.

The following six AEC projects are the finalists of the 2010 AEC Award:

- **Chain Stories 2009**
Chain Stories allows participating students from different schools in several countries to write chain stories in four different genres: Thriller, fairy tale, science fiction and robinsonade (this fantasy genre is an upcoming story). This year the stories are interactive because each chapter ends with a choice, e.g. if the person should "do something" or "not". Then other students from other schools continue the story in different directions and create new "dilemmas" at the end of their chapters. The students decide for themselves how long the story should be. An illustration is also created along with the new chapter. The final product is an interactive "book" where each reader can decide how the story goes.

Project Co-ordinator:

Ms Helene Tind, Herfølge School (Denmark)

- **Eco Tourists' Passports**
Eco Tourists' Passports allow students to explore ecotourism virtually in various countries. They embark on a journey exploring the pristine natural resources and usually protected areas, and in the process, get to know the local cultural heritage. Students find ways to travel responsibly, such as supporting local trades and living in eco-lodges. Assuming the perspective of ecologically and

socially conscious eco-tourists, these are integrated into a five-day itinerary later transformed into a video presentation to enable others to virtually experience being there.

Project Co-ordinator:
Ms Yuen Chai Lin, Pioneer Secondary School (Singapore)

- **East Speaks West, West Speaks East**

Language is used as a vehicle to facilitate intercultural exchange through understanding of one's own language and that of the other. As foreign language learning in most schools is often limited to French, Spanish, German and Italian, many European and Asian languages are often underrepresented choices in many school curricula. *East Speaks West, West Speaks East* is a two-continent-one-classroom project that aims to introduce Asian and European languages to European students and teachers.

Project Co-ordinator:
Mrs Edith Flores Wolff, Theaterfabrik (Germany)

- **Five Times Five**

Five Times Five is all about reducing gaps of knowledge and building bridges between students from all over Europe and Asia. Students from participating schools discover interesting things about other countries through presentations in five different subject areas and by letting them describe their top five charts within these areas. This allows students to understand the traditions and ceremonies of other countries. It also gives the students an insight on how younger generations reflect on old traditions.

Project Co-ordinator:
Mr Niclas Törnbladh, John Bauer Upper Secondary School in Ystad (Sweden)

- **Liveable Cities for 'Generation Next'**

Coupled with climate change, pollution woes and global warming issues, it is a challenging task for most governments today to keep their cities vibrant and 'liveable'. How can the youth of 'Generation Next' be equipped to understand and deal with these challenges? Can these young minds suggest new ideas and share with their counterparts across different parts of the world? What will be a 'liveable city' for young people in the future? *Liveable Cities for 'Generation Next'* engages students from Asia and Europe to examine the dynamics of sustainability development and environmental concerns in their countries. Senior high school students can learn, interact and collaborate ideas online to map out their "blueprint" for future liveable cities.

Project Co-ordinator:
Mr Kelvin Yew, Millennia Institute, Singapore

- **WHAZZUP? 2009-2010**

WHAZZUP? is an online educational network, bringing Asian and European students and teachers together to share their cultures, world views and learning of many different subjects. The focus is on learning to learn, giving each member a voice to express themselves creatively, and, most of all, to introduce members to a more professional-style network, and guide them to create responsible online presences. It includes sharing photos, videos, blog posts and multimedia presentations, and taking part in discussions and chats.

Project Co-ordinators:
Ms Sinikka Laakio-Whybrow, Kaarina Senior High School (Finland)
Ms Merja Laine, Kaarina Senior High School Finland)

For further information on the Asia-Europe Classroom Network visit <http://aec.asef.org> or contact:

Ms Angie Toh

People-to-People Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation
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