

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 grant of 2,000 EUR. The cash 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:

- Its effectiveness in advancing intercultural understanding among secondary and high school students
- Effective application of ICT tools in promoting intercultural learning
- Level of participation and involvement of students in developing the project
- Quality of overall presentation of the project

JUDGES

- **Mr Jørn LEHMANN**, Vice Mayor of Sønderborg, Sønderborg Municipality
- **Amb Dominique GIRARD**, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation
- **Dr Xianli ZHU**, Economist, UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development

FINALISTS FOR 2009 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 2009 AEC Award:

- **Backpackers' Passports**

The "Backpackers' Passports" offers a platform for students to gain better appreciation of cultural diversity through accounts and exchanges between fellow students in Asia and Europe. The project aims to develop a series of personalised and unique virtual tours by the participating students. Through research and regular online interactions, they develop a three-day backpacker's itinerary of their home country.

Project Co-ordinator:

Ms Yuen Chai Lin (Head of Department, NT Stream, Pioneer Secondary School, Singapore)

- **Local Industry and Enterprise 2008/2009**

The "Local Industry and Enterprise 2008/2009" offers a platform for each student to research and present their findings on a local industry or enterprise. A key focus is on the social and environmental impact both locally and globally. Through a process of peer sharing and reflection, students are expected to gain greater insights to businesses in both Asia and Europe. This third edition leverages from and builds on the success of the experience of the past two years.

Project Co-ordinator:

Ms Angela Rickard (Education Department, National University of Ireland, Maynooth Co. Kildare)

- **Local Traditions and Ceremonies - Weddings are Made in Heaven**

Local Traditions and Ceremonies – "Weddings are Made in Heaven" tasks Asian and European students to research and present the practices of traditional wedding ceremonies in their own culture. In any culture, a wedding ceremony is typically rich in symbolism. Students will explore similarities in cultural

practices and symbolisms between Asian and European cultures through their online interactions.

Project Co-ordinators:

Dr Zafeiroula Kagkalidou (School Adviser, Directorate of Secondary Education, Greece)

Mrs Aggeliki Arvanta (Teacher, 5th Gymasio Serron, Greece)

Mr Michalis Feidakis (Information Society Executive, Hellenic Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, Greece)

- **Mastering Media – Fact or Fiction? The Truth Behind Reality TV**

This project tasks participating students to give an account of their reactions to reality shows in Asia and Europe. Through a comparative study of global TV formats, students can better comprehend the power of the mass media and the entertainment industry. They are then tasked to examine the rationale for participation in reality shows as a reflection of universal behavioural patterns in contemporary society. The project focuses on the dynamics between (media) production, participants and the audience in modern media environment, as well as concepts of morality, scandal or hype.

Project Co-ordinators:

Ms Maija Ojutkangas (Teacher, Messukylä Upper Secondary School, Finland)

Ms Jonina Altschuler (Teacher, Messukylä Upper Secondary School, Finland)

- **TraditionalGames@VirtualHomestay**

"TraditionalGames@VirtualHomestay" is a project where participating students are required to develop more in-depth understanding of the games as well as facilitate learning by their partners through video demonstration of the game. All student participants are tasked to analyse the similarities and differences of the traditional games. Lastly, students will explore their creativity by conceptualising and designing a game and gather peer evaluation from their online team partners.

Project Co-ordinator:

Ms Yong Caiyu (Teacher, Pioneer Secondary School, Singapore)

- **WHAZZUP?**

The "WHAZZUP?" project provides a common platform for participating students to share their interests, passions and concerns through personalised accounts and blogs. Students' curiosity is invoked and the learning process is natural. Through externalising and conceptualising their learning and then getting feedback and responses from their peers, they will be able to gain a deeper understanding of whatever it is they are studying.

Project Co-ordinators:

Ms Sinikka Laakio-Whybrow (Teacher, Kaarina Senior High School, Finland)

Ms Merja Laine (Teacher, Kaarina Senior High School, Finland)

Press Conference: Announcement of 2009 AEC Award Winners

Date: 27 October 2009 (Tuesday) | Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Hesteskoen, Hotel Comwell (Rosengade 2, 6400 Sønderborg, Denmark)

Kindly R.S.V.P. by 23 Oct 2009 to laiyee@asef.org

To schedule media interviews, please contact:

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