Dear Participants,

A big congratulation to you for being selected for the ASEFClassNet17 School Collaboration on “Learning about AI and Learning with AI”!

The rapid evolution of the education landscape, propelled by AI, cannot be overstated. Consider this: Chat GPT reached 100 million registered users in two months of time, which took Facebook 4.5 years long and the platform formerly known as Twitter, now X, five years. These statistics serve as a reminder of the unprecedented pace at which AI is spreading in our societies.

These facts give you a sense of how urgent it is for teachers from around the globe to understand AI to guide our societies to the right direction.

That is why a project like this is going to be a testament to our collective commitment to steer conversations surrounding AI and education in the right direction. Let us leverage this platform for a rich exchange of ideas, experiences, and insights, fostering dynamic dialogues among educators, technologists, policymakers, and all stakeholders invested in the realm of AI and education.

At ASEF, I am proud to share that the ASEFClassNet17 School Collaboration stands as a beacon of people-to-people connection, born from the dedication of a group of committed educators like you coming from 50 countries across Asia and Europe for over 2 decades now. And this year, I am excited to share that this Collaboration is going to stand as a unique platform for Open Education Resources (OER), thanks to our partnership with Open Education for Better World (OE4BW) and all the brilliant mentors who will work with you and guide you as you work on your Innovative Teaching Practices.

Open Education Resources has the power to bridge education resource gap, especially in countries with lack of teacher training and support mechanisms. Therefore, through your participation in this project, you will not only build your own capacity, but you also have the chance to empower other teachers in your country and beyond.

Allow me to share 3 key tips to make your ASEFClassNet17 School Collaboration journey meaningful:

Advis 1: Be ready to fail fast! We have a Japanese saying:

"弘法も筆の誤り" (Kobo mo fude no ayamari) meaning "Even Kobo-Daishi, a very famous great monk known as one of the best calligraphers in the history of Japan, makes a wrong stroke in calligraphy."
The idea this proverb conveys is that everyone makes mistakes or encounters failures, regardless of their skill or experience. It emphasises the importance of resilience, learning from setbacks, and persevering in the face of challenges without fearing too much the failure, which are essential qualities for fostering innovation. I encourage you to be creative with an open mind towards learning and continuous growth and give your best effort without worrying about failure. Everyone is beginner in handling AI.

**Advice 2:** Designing an Innovative Teaching Practice (ITP) is a core part of your training. Hence, I invite you to enjoy the process and carefully design your ITP with your peers with support and guidance from your mentor and the ASEFClassNet Team. Embrace the power of collaboration, be bold and take a risk to design a truly innovative teaching practice you and your students will love and benefit from.

**Advice 3:** Finally, please make friends and network with your peers. Learn about each other, support each other and stay connected to your peers as well as with ASEF. A connected brilliant, aware, dedicated educators’ community is a strong force to drive any kind of education innovation to the right direction.

As we embark on this journey together, let us engage in thoughtful and introspective conversations about the ethical considerations, challenges, and the imperative for responsible decision-making in the realm of AI-driven educational innovation.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the ASEFClassNet team for their unwavering dedication and hard work in organizing this project.

Thank you again for embarking on this exciting capacity building journey with us. With great anticipation, let us now commence this Collaboration, brimming with promise and possibility.

All the best!