



so much to share

Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)



Introduction

1 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 500 projects, engaging over 17,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

2 Fostering contacts and exchanges in the field of education between ASEM countries is one of ASEF's main priorities. To this end, ASEF launched a number of programmes and activity series to strengthen linkages and co-operation among educational institutions of ASEM countries and promote contacts among students at different levels.

3 Launched in December 1998, the **Asia-Europe Classroom (AEC)** is ASEF's main platform to forge contacts among secondary and high schools, teachers and students. In the beginning of 2006, the Asia-Europe Classroom was renamed as the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET).

4 The AEC was conceived at a brainstorming session attended by secondary and high school teachers and educators from Asia and Europe held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May 1998. The original challenge was to harness the potential of infocomm technology (ICT) in connecting secondary and high schools of Asia and Europe and construct the framework for a "cyber classroom" that would promote intellectual and intercultural exchanges among secondary and high school teachers and students of Asia and Europe. The AEC has since evolved further.

5 Today, the principal activities held under the AEC framework are as follows:

- (a) The AEC-NET Conference, which is attended by secondary and high school educators
- (b) The various AEC on-line collaborative learning projects involving different groups of students from secondary and high schools
- (c) Quarterly e-newsletter.

Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)

6 The AEC-NET should be understood as a network of networks, and as a project involving all the relevant partners in ICT education. More importantly, ICT should be seen as a means towards an end. This objective is no other than bringing students and educators closer together for better understanding and intercultural collaborative learning.

The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** was established in February 1997 under the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process. ASEF advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. www.asef.org

ASEM now brings together 49 member states (Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.. www.aseinfoboard.org

Co-ordinating Committee

7 The Asia-Europe Classroom Network consists of a Co-ordinating Committee. The committee works as a provider of academic criteria in order to evaluate the different activities of the project as well as to assess and advise on the best direction, action plans and strategies for the future.

The members of the AEC-NET Co-ordinating Committee members are nominated by the Asia-Europe Foundation based on their professional and personal values for the AEC-NET. The nominated member(s) should be, in all circumstances, be alumni of the AEC-NET.

The AEC-NET Conference

8 The AEC-NET Conference is organised since 2001 that gathers secondary and high school educators who take a keen interest in fostering collaborations among their students through innovative and interactive collaborative online learning and inter-cultural exchanges. The online collaborative projects initiated at each Conference are referred to as the AEC Projects.

The key objectives of the AEC-NET Conference are to:

- (a) foster collaborations among secondary and high school teachers and students with a view to promoting collaborative, cross-cultural learning and bi-regional exchanges
- (b) encourage the advancement of education through the use of infocommunication technology (ICT)
- (c) develop innovative and interactive platforms offering online inter-cultural learning opportunities for secondary and high schools
- (d) develop a network of secondary and high schools from ASEM countries.

9 The Conference is usually held over a period of 4.5 days and the essential components of the programme are as follows:

- **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, the most outstanding of which are then shortlisted to contend for the AEC Awards (please see *Annex B*). 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 6 to 9 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 including visits to places of cultural and historical significance in the host country are organised to give the participants a better understanding of the different aspects of the host country. The host country might also take the opportunity to organise activities to better acquaint the participants with its approach to secondary and high school education, which may include visits to schools or specialised training centres for teachers.
- **Networking.** Participants are given adequate opportunities to interact with one another at the social level, outside of the plenary sessions and the working groups. This is to engender camaraderie among participants, thereby fostering the creation of networks that could form the foundations of future and further contacts and collaborations.



10 The Conference is open to secondary and high school teachers and educators in the 46 ASEM member countries, who would like to propose or collaborate in ICT projects designed to promote exchanges among students aged between 9 to 20 years old. To enable them to draw full benefit from the conference, participants need to:

- (a) be proficient in both spoken and written English
- (b) have sufficient knowledge about ICT generally, and ICT applications in learning and training; and
- (c) be prepared to share their experiences and ideas on ICT projects and/or propose project ideas.

Please refer to **Annex A** for the summary of the past Conferences.

The AEC Projects

11 These projects were developed during the AEC-NET Conference. By collaborating closely and pooling their resources, teachers and students from secondary and high schools learn more about one another and about one another's views and perspectives on a broad spectrum of issues. These projects have also enabled students involved to acquire new tools of learning and establish friendships with their counterparts in the other region.

12 Please refer to **Annex A** for the list of the AEC Project Groups that have resulted from previous Conferences.

13 To recognise efforts to produce outstanding on-line learning platforms or applications under the AEC framework, ASEF presents **AEC Awards** (Gold and Merit Awards which comprises of a cash grant of Euro 2,000 and Euro 500 respectively) to AEC Project Groups that have developed outstanding on-line learning platforms/applications at the AEC Conference. The grant should be used either to further develop the AEC Project or as seeds to develop a new project. The key criteria used to assess the AEC Projects are as follows:

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

Conclusion

14 ASEF is open to work with interested academic institutions and national education organisations in organising activities under the AEC-NET framework on a co-financing basis. Host countries would benefit substantially from hosting AEC-NET activities as they could promote and enhance the profile of national programmes to promote the use of ICT in education. These activities also offer opportunities for educators and high school teachers not only to establish useful contacts with counterparts in other countries in ASEM countries, but also to explore the possibility of joint collaborations.



15 The People-to-People Exchange Department is the main contact point in ASEF for all substantive and organisational matters. Responsibility for the overall management and co-ordination of work relating to the different activities is that of the Director for People-to-People Exchange and the Coordinator of the AEC-NET Programme. As the situation varies from one activity to another, the detailed division of responsibilities in respect of organisational matters between ASEF and partner organisations will be determined after discussions.¹

For further information on the Asia-Europe Classroom Network, please contact:

**Co-ordinator, Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)
c/o Asia-Europe Foundation
31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119595**

**Tel: +65-6874 9716
Fax: +65-6872 1207
Email: info@aec.asef.org
Http://aec.asef.org**

¹Please note that given ASEF's commitment to regularly review our programmes and initiatives with a view to ensuring their continuing effectiveness, the provisions of this paper are subject to further confirmation.



ASIA-EUROPE CLASSROOM NETWORK CONFERENCE

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
1 st AEC-NET Conference Singapore 2 - 5 Sept 2001	Ministry of Education, Singapore Raffles Girls' Secondary School	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effects of Modernisation on Agriculture 2. Nuclear Energy 3. Cultural Fusion 4. Water is Life 5. 1st AE Classroom Meeting Point 6. Halo-Halo to Mooncake 7. T.O.F.U (TransOceanic Forum United)
2 nd AEC-NET Conference Tampere, Finland 11 – 14 Sept 2002	National Board of Education, Finland Education Committee of the City of Tampere	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. e-World 2. Face 2 Face 3. Handshakes All Around the World - A Virtual Homestay 4. Let's Do the Same Lesson 5. Living in a Multicultural World 6. Merging Melodies 7. Ndolalak and Hambo 8. The Multicultural Exchanger - A Newspaper Online 9. Women All Over the World
3 rd AEC-NET Conference Bogor, Indonesia 28 Sept – 2 Oct 2003	Madania School Department of National Education European Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Local Sacred Building 2. A Long Journey – A Global Story 3. Cultural Cybercards 4. Culture Ambassador 5. Peace Project 6. Science Beyond the Classroom 7. The Students' Online Magazine
4 th AEC-NET Conference Grömitz, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany 27 Sept – 1 Oct 2004	Kreisgymnasium Neustadt European Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asia-Europe EduRepository 2. Cultural Kaleidoscope 2005 3. How Do Your Winds Blow? 4. Multicultural Webquest on <i>mySchool!</i> 5. Online Smart Learning 6. Peace Project 7. Puppet on the Web 8. Science Beyond the Classroom

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Social Entrepreneur 10. The Online Students' Magazine 11. The World in a Book 12. Utopia@VHome
<p>5th AEC-NET Conference Beijing, China 25 – 29 Sept 2005</p>	<p>Beijing Jingshan School Ministry of Education, China European Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body Language in Asia and Europe 2. Cultural Fiction 3. Cultural Kaleidoscope 2006 4. Eco-Cultural Tourism 5. Foodfest@VirtualHomestay 6. Global Music Composition 7. Local Traditions and Ceremonies 8. Mastering Media 9. Mosaic 10. Peace Project - Phase 3 11. Ten In One 12. The World in a Book 2005
<p>6th AEC-NET Conference Kerkini, Serres Prefecture, Greece 9 – 13 October 2006</p>	<p>Gymnasium of Livadia Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia-Greece European Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Ahoy 2. Asia and Europe Money 3. Building the Children's Online Geographical Atlas 4. Cultural Fiction 5. Cultural Kaleidoscope 2007 6. Cultural Lessons Exemplars (CELEX) 7. Experience Exchange of in Learning English as a Foreign Language 8. Flavours of the World 9. FoodTaboos@VirtualHomestay 10. Going Global Family 11. I Investigate my History, I Shape my Future 12. iMyths, Beliefs and Legends 13. Insights into Foreign Schools 14. Junior Cartoonists 15. Let's Make Movies! 16. Links in History 17. Local Industry and Enterprise 18. Local Traditions and Ceremonies

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Mastering Media – The Sequel 20. Mosaic 21. Natural Disaster 22. Peace Project 2007 23. Renewable Energies 24. School Events 25. The Book of Our Multicoloured Dreams and Dreamers 26. The Silk Road 27. The World in a Book 2006 28. Understanding Other Cultures via the Internet (UCI) 29. V.O.C.A.L: Caves Exploration 30. Weblink Q 31. When Nature Calls 32. Young Diplomats
January – December 2007	Not applicable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. About the Past 2. Asian-European e-class 3. Brick&Mortar@VirtualHomestay 4. Cultural Kaleidoscope 2008 5. Dictionary of Water 6. East or West, Global is the Best 7. Fit and Easy 8. Going Global Family 2007 9. Insights into Foreign School 10. Literary Corner 11. Local Industry and Enterprise 12. Mastering Media Goes Digital 13. My Urban Utopia – The Ideal City 14. Project ACE - AEC-NET Culture and Education Project - "Building Bridges Beyond Borders" 15. Save Our Planet Using Biodegradable Plastics 16. Tailor Inc. 17. The Olympic Games 18. Toys of Our Youth 19. V.O.C.A.L: Caves Exploration 20. Young Diplomats – International Ambassadors

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
<p>7th AEC-NET Conference Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia 12 – 16 December 2008</p>	<p>Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO Malaysian Ministry of Education Sabah State Education Department Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Sabah Sabah Science Secondary School Sabah College Sanzac National Secondary School European Commission</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After School Activities 2. Backpackers Passports 3. Business and Recession 4. Chain Stories 5. Citizens of the World 6. Cooking with Shakespeare 7. Cultural Shock 8. E-magazine on European and Asian Issues 9. Filming Project 10. Five Times Five 11. Flying to Asia on a Magic Flying Carpet 12. In Our World of Patterns 13. Journey Through Journalism 14. Journey Through The Past Daily Life 15. Literary Corner Phase II 16. Living History – a Short Story of Civilisation 17. Local Industry and Enterprise 2008/2009 18. Local Traditions & Ceremonies - Weddings are Made in Heaven 19. Mastering Media – Fact or Fiction 20. New Vistas! 21. Our Global Window – Houses 22. One-day Eco-Travel to a Local Scenic Spot 23. Renewable Energies 24. Rise of Peace 25. School Development by Building a Communicative, Digital Global Course Together 26. Street "Guru" Adventure 27. TAO Project: Telecolaborative Learning Across the Curriculum 28. The World on the Go 29. TraditionalGames@VirtualHomestay 30. WHAZZUP! 31. What Did I Learn in Science Today? 32. Where Music Lives 33. Young Scientists – "Inside Cosmos"

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
8 th AEC-NET Conference Sønderborg, Denmark 26 – 30 October 2009	Sønderborg Municipality Danish Ministry of Education Hørup Centralskole Nyborg Friskole Herfølge Skole European Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Magic Flight to India 2. Chain Stories 2009 3. Climate Change and Corresponding Strategies 4. Dancing World 5. East Speaks West, West Speaks East 6. Eco Tourists' Passports 7. Environmental Education Linkage Project 8. EnvironmentalFriendly@VirtualHome stay 9. Environmental Monitoring of the Acid Rains in Eurasia 10. Filming Project: Water drops... Water colours.... 11. Folklore 12. GoCyberGreen 13. Going Global Family 2009: Love Earth for the Future 14. Green School 15. Heritage "Guru" Adventure 16. Historical Buildings Pictures (HisBulPics) 17. International Treasures 18. Liveable Cities in the Future – New Possibilities and Suggestions from "Generation Next" 19. Music in the Air 20. Nurture the Nature Project 21. Personal and Social Training for Excellence in Education 22. Places Worth Visiting – Unforgettable Journey 23. Project SOS (Save our Species) 24. The City Jungle 25. The EarthSaviorProject (The ESP) 26. The Low Carbon Diet: Time to Lose Those Extra Carbons! 27. The Nature's Pharmacy Project 28. The Programmers Club 29. WHAZZUP! 2009-2010 30. Where Music Lives 2010 31. Youth for Environment in School Activities for Climate Change

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
<p>9th AEC-NET Conference</p> <p>Gurgaon, NCR of Delhi, India</p> <p>12 – 16 November 2010</p>	<p>St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, Meera Bagh</p> <p>Ministry of Human Resource Development</p> <p>European Commission</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Magic Flight to Benevento, Italy 2. Biodiversity in my Town and its Importance for the Sustainable Development of the World 3. Butterfly in Your Hands 4. Chain Stories 2010 5. Creative Solutions to Protect Our Environment from Globalisation Effects 6. East Speaks West, West Speaks East 2010 7. Environmental Education Linkage Project II (EE LINKS II) 8. Filming the Web of Life 9. Flora and Fauna Conservation 10. Food 4 Everyone 11. From Naga to the Earth 12. GoCyberGreen 2010/2011 13. Going by Sea 14. Historical Buildings Pictures (HiBuPics) – Part II 15. Home Seek 16. International Handicrafts Exchange 17. Let's Celebrate! 18. 'Liveable' Buildings in the Future Cities – New Suggestions from Young People 19. Living Paintings 20. Neighbourhood 'Guru' Adventure 21. One Leaf for Living 22. Peace Through Community Living 23. Protection of River Biodiversity 24. Red listed Endangered species Database (R.E.D.) 25. Reduce-Reuse-Recycle 26. River of the World 27. The Triple S Project – Search Shoot Share Project 28. Travel Journalists' Passports 29. Usaboutus 30. What's on the Bulletin? (WOB) 31. WHAZZUP?

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
		32. Windows to the Past – The Chronicles of Stamps 33. Wooding Vows for 2011 – The International Year of Forest
10 th AEC-NET Conference Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland 7 – 11 November 2011	County Louth Vocational Education Committee Department of Education and Skills European Commission	1. 3-2-1 Action! 2. A Diary of Our Culture 3. A Magic Flight to Berlin 4. Art@VirtualHomestay 5. Beauty and the Beast in our Forests 6. Borders and Bus Stop 7. Bridge Global Schools 8. Chain Stories 2012 9. Cosmopolitan's Passport 10. Crossing the Borders, Feeling the Others 11. Famous Mathematicians 12. Folklore Galore 13. Food in Movies 14. From Ideas into Action: Greener Ways of Commuting 15. Future Of your Sea (FOS) 16. Global Theatre 17. GoCyberGreen 2011/2012 18. Homeseek II: 'Exploring' Homes 19. Hop On, Hop Off 20. Interactive Classroom 21. International Handicraft Exchange 2011 22. Maths in OUR World 23. Naga2Earth - Message From the Builder 24. Oops!! Apps!! 25. Our Heroes, Our Inspirations 26. Physics In Daily Life 27. Picture It 28. Planet Happiness 29. Re-Going by Sea 2011 30. Robot Society 31. Seasons Greetings!

VENUE/DATE	CO-ORGANISERS	RESULTING AEC PROJECTS
		32. Teddy's Travel 33. The View From Here 34. Who is the Next Scientist? 35. Windows to the Past Season 2 - A Glimpse into Our Heritage 36. Chem-Connect 37. Project Rain Gauge 38. Recycling Art – Turning Trash into Treasures
AEC-NET: Project Implementation and Evaluation ASEM Countries January – December 2012		1. A Diary of Our Life 2. Any Given Day 3. Bazaar – My View 4. Chain Stories 2013 5. Dream Tours 6. Explore-Explore-Express ((UNESCO World Heritage Sites) 7. Fact or Fiction - Imagined Space of Tourism 8. Fan Page Fun Time 9. iMag – Making Myself Heard 10. Interesting Vanishing Trades in Our Countries 11. International Village – Thumbs Up for SketchUp! 12. Let's Eat 13. Origins@VirtualHomeStay 14. Picture It Too! 15. Plastic Fantastic 16. Scientific Misconceptions in Movies 17. Senses 18. Somewhere Out There 19. Thinking Green 20. The Time Machine 21. The Green Volunteers 22. The Second View From Here 23. The Wonders of Our World 24. Unearthing Gems 25. YOUTH's Compassion in Action



HOW TO ORGANISE A PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ASEF?

- ASEF projects are generally co-organised with institutions from ASEM partner countries. Grants given by ASEF to support initiatives are very limited; ASEF is usually involved in all aspects of its projects, from conceptualisation to implementation and follow-up and share all responsibilities (format, participants, timeframe, and budget) with its partners.
- Co-organisers and sponsors include: parliaments, government agencies, think tanks, universities and other educational/research institutions, student and youth organisations, cultural and heritage promotion organisations (e.g. museums, galleries, arts festivals etc) business organisations, NGOs, trade unions and other relevant civil society organisations.
- The potential partner is invited to present a project proposal to ASEF at least 10 months before the scheduled event. Project proposals should be consistent with ASEF activities and should have a long term perspective, specifically networking potential. The project proposal should contain relevant information such as project scope and design, budget and expected outputs. A more detailed concept paper is encouraged.
- As ASEF shares the cost of the event with the co-organiser(s), any organisation's proposal to ASEF should reflect at least 50% funding of the total cost of the project (either through its own funding or through confirmed sponsors).
- The substance of the meeting should be of multilateral and bi-regional importance for Asia and Europe. ASEF does not finance individual or bilateral projects. As many ASEM partner countries as possible should be represented in the project, with balanced representation from Asia and Europe.
- The projects can take the form of conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars, and the use of web-based platforms. Innovative ideas on format are encouraged.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN ASEF PROJECTS?

Participation in projects executed by ASEF is open to nationals from ASEM countries. Where a non-ASEM national may be critical for a project's success, an exception could be made. As different projects might have different requirements, please visit our website or contact the respective department. All call for applications are available on www.asef.org

Contact us

NAME	DESIGNATION	EMAIL
Mr Hongtie Zhang (China)	Director	hongtie.zhang@asef.org
Ms Edwige Rozier (France)	Deputy Director	edwige.rozier@asef.org
Ms Angie Toh (Singapore)	Project Manager	angietoh@asef.org
Ms Helen Chua Balderama (Philippines)	Project Manager	helen.chuabalderama@asef.org
Mr Joel Bassig (Philippines)	Project Executive	joel.bassig@asef.org
Ms Jennifer Domingo (Philippines)	Project Executive	Jennifer.Domingo@asef.org
Mr Rob van Leeuwen (Netherlands)	Project Officer	rob.vanleeuwen@asef.org