



Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)



EMBRACING DIVERSITY • BRIDGING PEOPLES • SHAPING PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

1 The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) was established on 15 February 1997 under the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), an informal dialogue process in which 43 countries from Asia and Europe, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission participate. ASEM seeks to strengthen co-operation between Asia and Europe in three key areas - political and security dialogue, enhanced economic co-operation as well as social, cultural and educational co-operation. ASEF was set up to complement the dialogue at the inter-governmental level under ASEM and create better mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

2 Fostering contacts and exchanges in the field of education between Asia and Europe 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 Asia and Europe 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 Asia and Europe. 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 annual Conference, which is attended by secondary and high school teachers from Asia and Europe;
- (b) The various AEC on-line collaborative learning projects involving different groups of students from secondary and high schools of Asia and Europe.

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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.

7 Please refer to Appendix A showing the proposed organisational chart of the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET).

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

The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, 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, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission. www.aseminfoboard.org

Association of Highschools for Europe Asia Dialogue (AHEAD)

8 The Association of Highschools for Europe Asia Dialogue (AHEAD) would be evolved as a result of a concept refinement based on the analysis of the different elements of the International Teachers' Conference to be kept or modified. First and foremost, teachers involved in the project should not only be educators with a particular interest in developing closer ties with other European or Asian colleagues or mere representatives of their own schools. Instead, practitioners present in any structure fostering ICT collaborative learning should be real facilitators, promoting of representing networks of schools in their own countries, becoming at the same time, focal points in the necessary dialogue and co-operation that should be established on a regular basis between schools and the Ministries of Education / National Agencies for Education.

Ministerial Steering Committee

9 This committee comprises of departments in the Ministries of Education / National Agencies of Education of the ASEM member states involved in ICT learning. A network aiming at promoting ICT collaborative learning cannot be understood without the close involvement of the Ministries of Education / National Agencies of Education. The present experience of the International Teachers' Conference constitutes a valid proof of such a need. Therefore, co-operation between schools and Ministries of Education / National Agencies of Education should take the form of a stable partnership.

10 For this reason, the establishment of a permanent dialogue between Ministries / National Agencies and schools should be the most important aspect of the project and not, as it has been so far, the face-to-face encounters that were not even based on criteria of broad representation. Meetings should complement the ongoing collaborative partnership.

Co-ordinating Committee

11 ASEF enjoys a position of privilege as a potential interface in the evolution of such a partnership. Therefore, ASEF should play the role of general coordinator. At least two (2) representatives from Asia and two (2) from Europe representing both schools or ministries / national agencies should be part of the mechanism.

Advisory Board

12 ASEF could not claim any specific expertise in the field of ICT education. Therefore, a geographical balanced group of selected experts representing the different sensitivities and perspectives involved should work 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 and strategies for the future.

Institutional Partners

13 In the last years, several institutions and networks have been developed in order to foster ICT learning and secondary/high school co-operation. The Asia-Europe Classroom should benefit from experiences coming from those partners. This need for the development of institutional and civil society links should be a mutually enriching exercise on which the success of the project would highly depend.

Supporting Partners

14 As other experiences clearly show, ICT collaborative learning at the secondary and high school level represents an area with considerable potential to attract private funding, either from public institutions / corporations or from foundations specifically interested in promoting education and ICT learning.

15 ASEF will foster such project oriented partnerships that should not only reduce the costs of our activities, but at the same time, highlight the stature the AEC-NET deserves in the world of ICT education and collaborative intercultural learning.



The AEC-NET Conference

16 To align with ASEF's new strategy, the theme for the 2009 Conference will focus on Environment and Sustainable Development with the aims to raise and build environment awareness for secondary and high schools in Asia and Europe, which will hopefully lead to concrete action to protect the environment in their own school community.

The key objectives of the AEC-NET Conference are as follows:

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

17 The Conference is usually held over a period of five (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 12 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.

18 The Conference is open to secondary and high school teachers and educators in the 43 ASEM member countries, who would like to propose or collaborate in ICT projects designed to promote exchanges among students aged between 9 to 19 years old. To enable them to draw full benefit from the 2009 Conference, participants need to:

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



In summary, the conferences were held at the following:

Title	Date / Venue	Co-organisers and Supporters
1 st AEC-NET Conference	2 – 5 Sep 2001 Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Education, Singapore ▪ Raffles Girls' Secondary School
2 nd AEC-NET Conference	11 – 14 Sep 2002 Tampere, Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Board of Education, Finland ▪ Education Committee of the City of Tampere
3 rd AEC-NET Conference	28 Sep – 2 Oct 2003 Bogor, Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Madania School ▪ Department of National Education ▪ European Commission
4 th AEC-NET Conference	27 Sep – 1 Oct 2004 Grömitz, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kreisgymnasium Neustadt ▪ European Commission
5 th AEC-NET Conference	25 – 29 Sep 2005 Beijing, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beijing Jingshan School ▪ Ministry of Education, China ▪ European Commission
6 th AEC-NET Conference	9 – 13 Oct 2006 Kerkini, Serres Prefecture, Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gymnasium of Livadia ▪ Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece ▪ Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia-Greece ▪ European Commission
7 th AEC-NET Conference	12 – 16 December 2008 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
8 th AEC-NET Conference	26 – 30 Oct 2009 Sønderborg, Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sønderborg Municipality ▪ Danish Ministry of Education ▪ Hørup Centralskole ▪ Nyborg Friskole ▪ Herfølge Skole ▪ European Commission



The AEC Projects

20 These projects were developed during the annual Conference. By collaborating closely and pooling their resources, teachers and students from secondary and high schools of Asia and Europe 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.

21 Please refer to Appendix B for the list of the AEC Project Groups that have resulted from previous AEC Conferences.

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

- (a) The level of participation and involvement of students in developing the project;
- (b) The contribution that the project can make towards advancing intercultural understanding among high school students of Asia and Europe;
- (c) The effective application of ICT tools in promoting collaborative learning; and
- (d) The quality of the overall presentation of the project (design and structure).

Conclusion

23 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 Asia and Europe, but also to explore the possibility of joint collaborations.

24 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

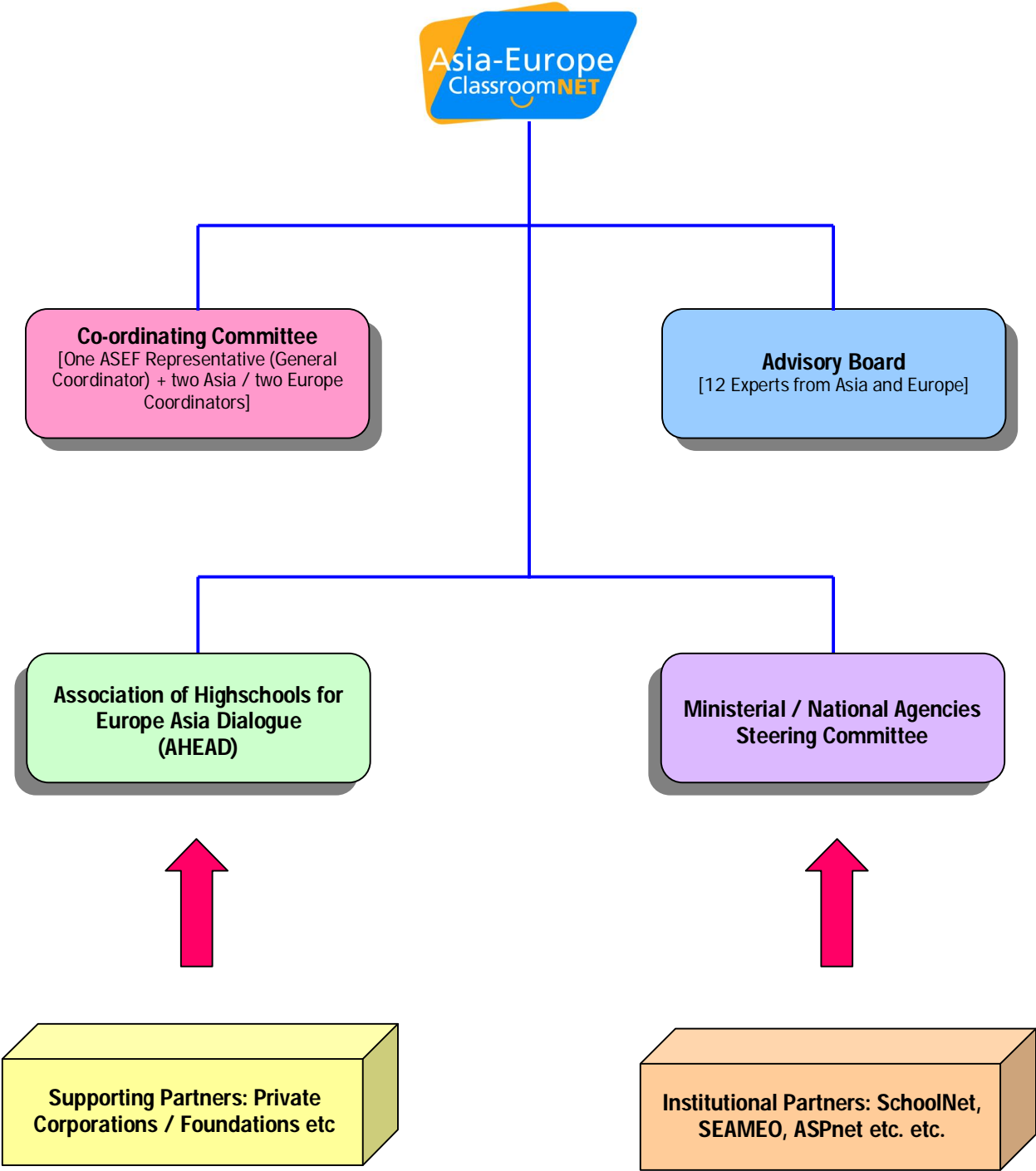
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¹ Please note that given ASEF's commitment to regularly review our programmes and initiatives with a view to ensuring their continuing effectiveness, the provisions of this paper are subject to further confirmation.





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"> Effects of Modernisation on Agriculture Nuclear Energy Cultural Fusion Water is Life 1st AE Classroom Meeting Point Halo-Halo to Mooncake 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"> e-World Face 2 Face Handshakes All Around the World - A Virtual Homestay Let's Do the Same Lesson Living in a Multicultural World Merging Melodies Ndolalak and Hambo The Multicultural Exchanger - A Newspaper Online 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"> A Local Sacred Building A Long Journey – A Global Story Cultural Cybercards Culture Ambassador Peace Project Science Beyond the Classroom 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"> Asia-Europe EduRepository Cultural Kaleidoscope 2005 How Do Your Winds Blow? Multicultural Webquest on <i>mySchool!</i> Online Smart Learning Peace Project Puppet on the Web 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
<p>8th AEC-NET Conference Sønderborg, Denmark 26 – 30 October 2009</p>	<p>Sønderborg Municipality Danish Ministry of Education Hørup Centralskole Nyborg Friskole Herfølge Skole European Commission</p>	<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



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

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