

PRESS RELEASE



**Asia-Europe Classroom Network Conference  
Apps in Asian and European Classrooms:  
Unleashing Educational Creativity**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland  
7-11 November 2011



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## **Minister Ruairí Quinn welcomes international conference to Dundalk**

**The Irish Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Ruairí Quinn, TD** will open the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) Conference in Dundalk, County Louth on 7 November. Over 100 secondary and high school educators from across Asia and Europe will gather to exchange views and knowledge on the latest technologies that enhance and foster creativity in education.

The five-day conference, entitled “*Apps in Asian and European Classrooms! Unleashing Educational Creativity*”, is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in collaboration with County Louth Vocational Education Committee (VEC). It is supported by the Irish Department of Education and Skills.

The international conference will also give an opportunity for the VEC to show off Ireland’s education system to the conference delegates.

Launched in 1998, the AEC-NET has since grown to involve more than 1,100 members in 846 schools across 43 countries in Asia and Europe. Every year, its members gather to exchange ideas for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges. The AEC-NET develops and implements online projects or “cyber classrooms” to connect students from Asia and Europe.

Other guests throughout the five-day conference will include Mr Pat Cox, Former President of the European Parliament; Mr Fergus O’Dowd, TD, Minister of State; Ms Brigid McManus, Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills; and Dr Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector of the Department of Education and Skills.

More information about the AEC-NET Conference is available at <http://aec.asef.org>

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## NOTE TO EDITORS:

You or your representative are invited to attend or to conduct interviews with any of the finalists or organisers. Details as follows:

**Event: Opening Dinner / Ceremony** (with Mr Ruairi Quinn, TD, Irish Minister of Education and Skills)

**Date:** 7 October 2011

**Time:** 19.00 – 21.00

**Venue:** Hamilton Suite, Crown Plaza Hotel

**To confirm your attendance, please contact:**

**Ms Pauline White**, County Louth Vocational Education Committee

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**For information about the programme, please contact**

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## 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 500 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. [www.asef.org](http://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.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)



Coiste County Louth  
Gairmoideachais Vocational Education  
Chontae Lú Committee  
[www.louthvec.ie](http://www.louthvec.ie)

**County Louth VEC** is a local Statutory, Education and Training Authority established under the Vocational Education Acts. The Committee's headquarters are in Chapel Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

County Louth VEC is involved in education provision for second level, and mature students, further education, vocational training, adult education, outdoor education and special education for early school leavers.

## With the Support of:



*ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Union*