

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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## Cyber Classrooms compete in Ireland

Six shortlisted “cyber classrooms” will be competing for the **Asia-Europe Classroom Award (AEC Award)** in Co. Louth, Ireland on 8 November 2011.

The AEC Award, comprised of the Gold and Merit Awards, will give out a cash prize of 2,000 EUR and 500 EUR respectively. The Award aims to encourage innovative, effective, and sustainable online intercultural learning platforms by secondary and high school educators to connect students from Asia and Europe.

The six shortlisted projects, chosen from over 33 entries, include finalists coordinated by Germany, Ireland, Italy, Singapore and Sweden. This year’s finalists have involved over 800 students from 22 countries in Asia and Europe.

One of the online projects is **GoCyberGreen 2010**, which is coordinated by Ms Angela Rickard from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. In this platform, secondary students created personal profiles introducing themselves, their school and local area. Additionally, students identify “Green Heroes” and blog about their admired traits.

Students are able to share classrooms in cyberspace. “In our school there are pupils from 23 different countries. The GoCyberGreen project gave us the chance to learn about some of the countries where our classmates are from. We could talk to our friends about Lithuania and Poland and other countries in the project,” says Louise Henry, 17, from Ballyhaunis Community School in Ireland, one of the schools involved in the project.

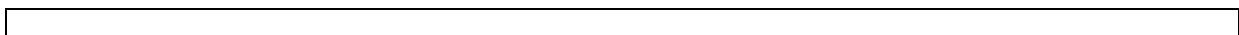
Other shortlisted projects include: **A Magic Flight to Benevento, Italy (Italy)** ; **East Speaks West, West Speaks East 2010 (Germany)**; **Flora and Fauna Conservation (Singapore)**; **Home Seek (Singapore)**; and **Red-listed and Endangered Species Database (RED) (Sweden)**. (See <http://tinyurl.com/AECfinalists> for more information about the finalists)

Three winners will be announced on 8 November during the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) Conference. The conference is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), based in Singapore, County Louth Vocational Education Committee (VEC), supported by the Irish Department of Education and Skills.

The awards will be formally handed out by former President of the European Parliament, Mr Pat Cox on 10 November 2011.

All AEC projects are developed by members of the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET). The AEC-NET was launched in 1998 and has since grown to involve more than 1,100 members in 846 schools across 43 countries in Asia and Europe.

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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: **Announcement of AEC Award Winners**  
Date: **8 November 2011 (Tuesday)**  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Venue: Executive Boardroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Inner Relief Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland

### 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

**Ms Angie Toh**, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)  
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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)



**County Louth Vocational Education Committee** 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*



## Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)

### AEC Award Finalists for 2011

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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.

This year, the six shortlisted finalists will compete for the Gold and Merit Awards. The Gold and Merit Awards each comprises of a cash prize of 2,000 EUR and 500 EUR respectively. The prize can be used by the teams to further develop the projects, or as seeds to initiate new ICT collaborative projects.

The shortlisted projects are judged based on:

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

### JUDGES

- **Mr ZHANG Hongtie**, Director, People-to-People Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation
- **Ms SinikkaLaakio-WHYBROW**, Member of the AEC-NET Co-ordinating Committee
- **Ms Joan FLANAGAN**, Education Officer, European Commission Representation in Ireland

### FINALISTS FOR 2011 AEC AWARDS

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 2011 Awards:

- **A Magic Flight to Benevento, Italy**

The goal of the project "A Magic Flight to Benevento" is to create a cyberspace where students from Asia and Europe could freely communicate and exchange relevant information. The project focused on Italy and its environmental and historical heritage in order to lay the basis for a collaboratively-developed product. The project Social Network has been the "village square" where students became friends and collected information about the project topics. The final product is a collaboratively-produced video where students from partner schools fly to Benevento and are welcomed by three Italian friends who chaperon them around the city (virtual tour).

Project Coordinator:

Ms Maria Antonietta Sessa, I.I.S. Galilei Vetrone (Italy)

- **East Speaks West, West Speaks East 2010**

East Speaks West, West Speaks East 2010 is all about language education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is about language exchange and creating opportunities for Asian and European students to learn from each other. The project encouraged the students to discover cultural diversity through the language. Making young people understand that a language could serve not only as a tool of oral communication but a means to get to know and examine cultural differences and similarities from the language perspective could be useful and exciting.

Project Coordinator:

Mrs Edith Flores Wolff, Global German Youth Connect (Germany)

#### ▪ **Flora and Fauna Conservation**

Flora and Fauna Conservation project aims to give Asian and European students to know more on endangered or extinct flora and fauna species in different countries and to understand the conservation actions that have been carried out in Europe and Asia. With the information exchanged online, students came up with educational resources to raise awareness in protecting the species in the world. This project is meaningful as students have the opportunities to reach out to their friends or younger children around them to educate them in saving plants and animals. Furthermore, it enhanced the students' ICT and communication skills as they work together online.

Project Coordinator:

Ms Felicia Tay, Pioneer Secondary School (Singapore)

#### ▪ **GoCyberGreen 2010**

In GoCyberGreen a number of different activities are offered: students created personal profiles, introduced themselves, their school and their local area. They will identify a "green hero" (it can be anyone) and described why they admire them in a blog. In groups, the students conducted research on an enterprise in their area with an 'environmental' theme. The project allowed students to develop their writing, research and reflective skills and encourages creativity in the medium of a social network. Students get to know each other, work together and learn from each other through blogging in a secure on-line environment.

Project Coordinator:

Ms Angela Rickard, National University of Ireland (Ireland)

#### ▪ **Home Seek**

HOME is a contested concept that is constantly being debated by people. In this project, students revisit the idea of a 'HOME' and write stories to produce a film about HOME based on the three categories: Dreams, Love and Peace. Students explore questions on love/ dreams/ peace, response to others' stories and identify similarities and differences in the idea of "home" from different countries. They also experience the joy of using new media to translate ideas into a film and participate on online forum discussion. Through this project, students learn to appreciate cross-cultural differences and foster greater respect and understanding.

Project Coordinator:

MsEr Kia Hui, Millennia Institute (Singapore)

#### ▪ **Red listed and Endangered species Database (R.E.D)**

In the R.E.D project, the participating students presented five or more of all threatened species in Europe and Asia. Students are encouraged to present species from not only their own region but they are also allowed to pick a subject somewhere else as long as they stay inside the Asian and European boundaries. Their presentations can be made with any tool as long as you can publish it on the Internet. The work will be published on a website with a searchable database of species in Asia and Europe. Students and teachers will also work together on a social network. Besides the database the students will have the opportunity to communicate with various tools available

Project Co-ordinator:

Mr Niclas Törnbladh, John Bauer Upper Secondary School in Ystad (Sweden)

For further information on the Asia-Europe Classroom Network, visit <http://aec.asef.org> or contact:

#### **Ms Angie Toh**

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