

15th ASEF Classroom Network Conference

Education for Sustainable Development and AI:
The Role and Readiness of Teachers

Tokyo, Japan | 25-29 November 2019



School Collaborations

Co-organised by



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Background

Launched in 1998, the ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet) fosters collaborations between secondary, high and vocational schools in 51 [ASEM Partner countries](#), while harnessing the potential and opportunities of technology in education. To-date, more than 1,500 teachers from 49 countries have joined the ASEF Classroom Network. In addition, more than 32,000 students have been engaged in 398 ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations.

About ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations

ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations are spin-off activities of the ASEF Classroom Network that embrace learning goals for the digital era. Thematically aligned with the annual ASEF ClassNet Conference themes, they are designed, coordinated and implemented by passionate school leaders, teachers and their students across Asia and Europe over a period of about 6-12 months. The Collaborations engage at least 5 Asian and European schools and can take various forms, e.g. a practical application of a digital tool, a research study or an intellectual output of intercultural exchanges. They are run either as an integral element of the daily school curriculum or as an extracurricular activity.

Rationale

Existing research and reports on innovation in education highlight that learning goals, learning guides and learning tools are often not as much aligned with each other as they should be.¹ In the context of using technology meaningfully in classrooms, researchers have found that most teachers lack confidence and creativity skills to use digital tools successfully.² At the same time, teachers are confronted with the urgency that education must equip learners with the competencies they need to survive and thrive in a world driven by globalisation and rapid technological advancement.³

Purpose

ASEF recognises the crucial role of teachers to strengthen any teaching and learning programme. Technology tools serve hereby as a catalyst. ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations pave the way for teachers to explore and produce innovative teaching & learning practices. The Collaborations

- **Connect** teachers who are constantly pushing the boundaries to show how meaningful teaching and learning takes place in classrooms and beyond
- **Encourage** teachers to get involved in using cutting-edge teaching and learning tools to create timely relevant learning environments
- **Challenge** school leaders and teachers to re-think the role of technology in learning setting as well as their own roles as educator
- **Document** successful and evidence-based improvements in teaching and learning; the results are highlighted to education policy makers and leaders for more informed policy making at secondary level education

Methodology

Each ASEF ClassNet Collaborations is coordinated by a team of teachers, researchers or education technology experts. The Coordinators guide the project by providing intellectual and/or technical insights, orientation & mentorship. By communicating and sharing the project activities with a larger audience through social media and relevant education channels, they also raise awareness and spread knowledge on the topic of their respective collaboration. Together with ASEF, they monitor the progress and evaluate the results.

Interested teachers shall confirm their commitment to join at the 15th ASEF ClassNet Conference. Participation allows them to learn and practice new pedagogical strategies to innovate teaching & learning environment and interact with an international educator community from up to 51 countries.

¹ See 2016 OECD report on *Innovating Education and Educating for Innovation: The Power of Digital Technologies and Skills*: <http://www.oecd.org/education/cei/GEIS2016-Background-document.pdf>

² See 2017 EU report by JRC Science Hub on *Digital Education Policies in Europe and Beyond: Key Design Principles for More Effective Policies*: https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC109311/jrc109311_digedupol_2017-12_final.pdf

³ See the OECD report on *The Future of Education and Skills: Education 2030*: [https://www.oecd.org/education/2030/E2030%20Position%20Paper%20\(05.04.2018\).pdf](https://www.oecd.org/education/2030/E2030%20Position%20Paper%20(05.04.2018).pdf)

Students engaged in ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations will have the opportunity to enjoy learning with peers from across Asia and Europe, shape their intercultural and creative skills and develop attitudes and mindsets towards global citizenship.

Project Timeline

Timeline	Project Cycle Phase
November - December 2019	Inception
January - February 2020	Conceptualisation & Planning
February - October 2020	Implementation & Monitoring
November 2020	Evaluation, Reporting & Follow up for Continuation

Collaborations for 2020

Category: Practical Application of a Digital Tool

“STEM Learning through Internet of Things (IoT): How is the Weather Today in Asia & Europe?”

Coordinator: Mr David Crellin, CEO of ScienceScope, and Mr Alex WRIGHT, Director of ScienceScope

Engaging students in STEM classes is exciting, especially when students not only learn about theories but also apply the knowledge in real life scenarios. This project connects schools across Asia and Europe by creating a network of weather stations and internal monitoring devices. By collecting and analysing environmental data, students are exposed to a concrete application of IoT technology in their own schools. Moreover, they develop critical knowledge & understanding on climate and environmental changes by following and comparing weather data reported by their peers' schools. Students & teachers involved in this project get a unique experiential learning opportunity and immerse themselves in the wide, creative potential of STEM subjects. The project is embedded in a worldwide initiative run by ScienceScope that contributes to the EXPO2020 in Dubai. The ASEF ClassNet supports this initiative and invites at this stage 20 schools from Asia and Europe to join.

Category: Intercultural Exchange

“Asia-Europe Blog on Gender-equitable AI and AI for Gender Equality”

Coordinators: Ms Juliette BENTLEY, Secondary Teacher and Writers Club Co-ordinator (Technology Implementation Mentor), Mt St Michael's College, Australia, and Ms Maria da Piedade DA SILVA, Teacher, Teacher Trainer & Evaluator, Agrupamento de Escolas de Sátão, Portugal

In the context of sustainable development, a main challenge of developing and using AI applications are gender biases and gender gaps in digital skills. This project engages all teachers of the 15th ASEF ClassNet Conference and their students as well as other interested schools to critically reflect on existing dilemmas, and develop new ideas on how, already at a school level, gender-equitable AI can be better integrated and promoted in our societies. The project invites both creative and factual writers – teachers and students – and contributions will be compiled in an Asia-Europe blog and published on ASEF's social media channels. The collaboration is a follow up on the 14th ASEF ClassNet Conference in 2018 in Finland on the topic “Gender Equality: Re-programming STEM Education”.