

INTRODUCTION



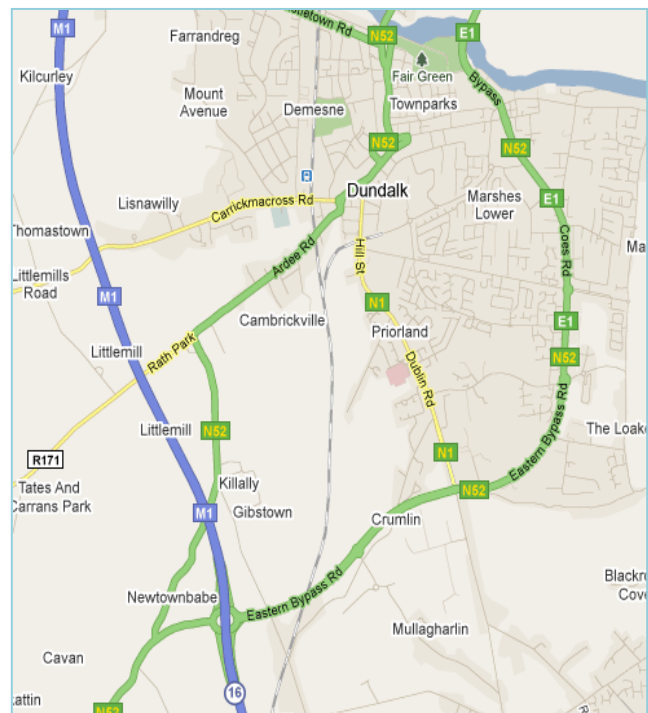
Ireland

Ireland is the third largest island in Europe and the twentieth largest island in the world. It lies to the northwest of continental Europe and is surrounded by hundreds of islands and islets. To the east of Ireland is Great Britain, separated from it by the Irish Sea. The population of Ireland is approximately 6.2 million.

Irish culture has had a significant influence on other cultures, particularly in the fields of literature and, to a lesser degree, science and education. A strong Irish culture exists, as expressed for example through Gaelic games, Irish music and the Irish language, alongside a common Western culture, such as contemporary music and drama, and sports such as soccer, rugby and golf, and the English language.

Co. Louth

Co. Louth is a county steeped in myth, legend and history, going back to the pre-historical days of the Táin Bó Cúailnge (Cooley Cattle Raid). Later it saw the influence of the Vikings as seen in the name of Carlingford Lough. There are a number of historic sites in the county, including religious sites at Monasterboice and Mellifont Abbey. In the early fourteenth century the Scottish army of Edward Bruce was defeated in the Battle of Faughart near Dundalk, Edward losing not only his claim to the High Kingship of Ireland, but also his life. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries featured many skirmishes and battles involving Irish and English forces. Towards the end of the 17th century the armies of the warring Kings, James and William faced off in South Louth during the build-up to the Battle of the Boyne - the battle takes its name from the river Boyne which reaches the sea at Drogheda.



Dundalk

Since the 1740s Dundalk has been an important industrial centre engaged in the manufacturing of linen and cambric, soaps and sugar, flour and leather, distilling and brewing. Today, the industrial tradition is being continued in a manufacturing complex which includes engineering, food and clothing, computers and a variety of electronic components.

The area has few equals as a tourist location, the physical amenities, amongst the best in the country, include the Cooley Peninsula, which offers a variety of activities, e.g. mountain drives, walking, nature trails, adventure holidays, equestrian activities, picnic areas and cruising on Carlingford Lough and several historical sites.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The 10th Asia-Europe Classroom Network Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Details of the hotel are as follows:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Inner Relief Road
Dundalk, Co Louth
Ireland

Tel : +353-42-9394900
Fax : +353-42-9394955
Email : enquiries@crowneplazadundalk.ie
URL : www.cpdundalk.ie

Note: The distance from Dublin Airport to the Conference Venue Crowne Plaza Hotel is approximately 75 km.

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT

The organisers will cover the costs for accommodation, meals and local transportation for the duration of the programme. Any other expenses of a personal nature (telephone, laundry, medical, etc.) will have to be borne by the delegate.

Accommodation (4 nights) has been arranged by the co-organisers at the hotel from 7 to 11 November 2011. All the participants will be accommodated in single rooms throughout the whole programme. Twin-sharing rooms will be provided for the student representatives.

We would appreciate if you could send the organisers your full travel itinerary as soon as possible so that we can arrange your accommodation and airport pick-up service accordingly. Should you require accommodation before or after the prescribed duration of stay, kindly send an email to us at angietoh@asef.org.

The rate per room per night is as follows:

Single standard room – €69.00 nett including daily breakfast for one
Twin/Double room – €79.00 nett including daily breakfast for two.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

You are expected to arrive at your designated Hotel on **Monday, 7 November 2011, before 16:00** in time for Registration and the Welcome Reception Dinner from 19:00 to 21:00 hours.

Please note that transfers will only be arranged for participants arriving at Dublin Airport on **Monday, 7 November 2011**. In the event that you should miss the pick-up, please take a bus from the airport to Dundalk. The journey will take approximately 45 minutes and will cost in the region of €7.00.

Dublin airport is recommended for all participants. Belfast International Airport is also an option but transfers from this airport will not be provided.

At the end of the Conference, airport transfer will also be arranged to bring participants to Dublin Airport on **Friday, 11 November 2011**.

The 10th AEC-NET Conference will formally end at **13:30 hours of Friday, 11 November 2011**.

VISA FOR IRELAND

Citizens of certain countries require an entry visa for Ireland. Please note that Schengen or UK visa or residence permission is **NOT** valid for travel to Ireland. If you are a national of a visa- required country you will need to apply for an Irish visa in advance of travel to Ireland.

Please visit the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs for more information with regards to the visa requirement - <http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8777>

For participants who require an official invitation letter to facilitate their visa application, and for any queries, please contact the following:

Ms Pauline White
Co. Louth Vocational Education Committee
Chapel Street Dundalk
Co Louth
Ireland

Tel : +353 42 935 6401
Fax : +353 42 932 8521
Email : admin@louthvec.ie
Website : <http://www.louthvec.ie>

WEATHER AND CLOTHING

Clothing for the 10th AEC-NET Conference is mainly smart-casual. Please bring some formal clothes for the official events (gentlemen are kindly advised to bring a tie and jacket or blazer). Ladies are highly encouraged to wear their national dresses for the official events (i.e., Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner).

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

The following table shows the estimates of mean air temperature, mean maximum and mean minimum (°C) for Dundalk, Co Louth.

Month	Mean (Max. °C)	Mean (Min. °C)	Mean (°C)
Jan	7.0	1.1	4.1
Feb	7.1	1.4	4.3
Mar	9.0	2.2	5.6
Apr	11.3	3.7	7.5
May	14.1	6.1	10.1
Jun	17.0	8.8	12.9
Jul	18.5	10.6	14.5
Aug	18.1	10.3	14.2
Sep	16.0	8.5	12.3
Oct	13.2	6.5	9.8
Nov	9.3	2.8	6.1
Dec	7.8	2.0	4.9
YEAR	12.4	5.3	8.9

LOCAL TIME

No UTC/GMT offset

CREDIT CARDS / ATM Withdrawals

All major cards are accepted in Ireland (i.e.: MasterCard, Visa, American Express, etc.) in most of the larger businesses. Some smaller businesses do not take credit cards, so ask a sales assistant before making any purchase.

MEDICATION

You may wish to bring with you some basic medical supplies. It is worth having your own basic medicine kit, such as mild painkillers like aspirin / paracetamol, cold and flu tablets, and any other special medications that you may require. If you are currently on medication, please bring an adequate supply since the drugs prescribed to you may not be available locally.

Long distance flights from Asia to Ireland may provoke headaches in some, so please remember to rest sufficiently during your flight to Dublin.

ELECTRICITY

The standard electricity voltage in Ireland is 230V A.C. at a frequency of 50Hz, with plugs being of the 3 pin IS411 (BS 1363) type.



These plugs have three rectangular prongs that form a triangle as shown above. Power outlets incorporate shutters on live and neutral contacts to prevent someone from pushing a foreign object into the socket. Appliances fitted with UK plugs can be used in Ireland.

CURRENCY



The Euro (€) is now the currency of 12 of the EU countries including Ireland. Notes and coins came into circulation on 1 January 2001. Northern Ireland still uses the Pound Sterling (£) but many places will accept the Euro. The Euro comes in denominations of:

Coins: 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 20¢, 50¢, €1, €2.

Notes: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, and €500.

EXCHANGE RATE (as at 20 June 2011)

1.00 EUR = USD 1.437

For more exchange rates, please refer to <http://www.xe.com/> or <http://www.euro.ie/>

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CO-ORGANISERS

The contact details for the co-organisers are as follows:

Co. Louth Vocational Education Committee

Ms Pauline White
Chapel Street Dundalk
Co Louth
Ireland

Tel : +353 42 935 6401
Fax : +353 42 932 8521
Email : admin@louthvec.ie
Website : <http://www.louthvec.ie>

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Ms Angie Toh
Executive Assistant to Director, People-to-People Exchange
31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119595

Tel : +65-68749716
Fax : +65-68721207
Email : angietoh@asef.org
Website : <http://www.asef.org>

USEFUL LINKS

Department of Foreign Affairs - <http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8605>

Government of Ireland - <http://www.gov.ie/en/>

Tourism Ireland - <http://www.tourismireland.com/Home/about-us.aspx>

Discover Ireland - <http://www.discoverireland.com/int/>

Currency Exchange - <http://www.xe.com>

Travel Currency Cheat Sheet - <http://www.oanda.com/convert/cheatsheet>

Co. Louth Vocational Education Committee - <http://www.louthvec.ie>

Department of Education & Skills - <http://www.education.ie>

Asia-Europe Foundation - <http://www.asef.org>

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