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37 nations represented at Dundalk

CO. LOUTH VEC HOSTING EDUCATION EVENT

Wednesday October 05 2011

DELEGATES from all over the world will come to Dundalk next month for an international education conference being hosted by Co. Louth VEC.

There will be 37 countries sending over 100 delegates to the 10th Asia Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) conference taking place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel between November 7th and 11th.

The AEC-NET is a project of the Asia Europe Foundation based in Singapore, and the conference is being hosted by Louth VEC in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills.

The AEC-NET Conference has taken place annually since 2001 and gathers together teachers and educators who take a keen interest in fostering collaborations among their students through innovative and interactive collaborative online learning and inter-cultural exchanges. The conference alternates between a European and Asian country each year with previous conferences being held in Denmark, Malaysia, Greece and China. Last year's conference was held in Gurgaon in India. The countries that will be represented at the conference in Dundalk include Austria, Brunei, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Vietnam.

The theme of this year's conference is Apps in Asian and European Classrooms: Unleashing Educational Creativity, and will be opened by Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Ruairí Quinn, T.D., and will include presentations by guest speakers from across Europe and Asia.

Dr. Pádraig Kirk, CEO of Co. Louth VEC said, ' The delegation is a fabulous mix of people from different backgrounds and different cultures across the world. The conference itself will provide opportunities to learn about different education systems in other countries and we will, no doubt, make lots of new friends during the week.

' The VEC intends to showcase our education system and Co. Louth during the conference. We will be taking delegates on visits to our schools, and there will be opportunities to include some cultural events on the conference programme.'

Some of the events planned include a concert at the Black Box theatre in DkIT, visits to Drogheda Institute of Education and Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer, and an excursion to Carlingford.