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Associated Schools
Network

UNESCO ASPnet Newsletter -- July 2024

From the International Coordination Unit

Message from the Director of the Division for Education 2030, Min Jeong Kim

Dear National Coordinators,

Julie Saito retired from UNESCO on 31 May 2024 after 17 years of service, the last four of which have been dedicated with passion to the ASP network. Throughout this time she has shown her unwavering commitment to UNESCO and its values. The E30 Division and I wish her a joyful retirement and all the best in the next chapter of her life. Those who wish to send Julie a farewell message, we invite you to do so by writing to ASPnet@unesco.org.

As of 1 June, Ms Lydia Ruprecht (l.ruprecht@unesco.org) became the new International Coordinator for the Associated Schools Network. Lydia has over 25 years' experience promoting international understanding and cooperation in the fields of work of UNESCO. She joined us from the UNESCO Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education where she more recently coordinated the development of the 2023 Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. Her areas of work over the years have focused on issues captured in Target 4.7 of SDG 4, including the mainstreaming of Global Citizenship Education and its related fields within education systems; the promotion of culture diversity and gender equality. Bilingual in French and English, Ms Ruprecht holds a D.E.A. in political sociology and a Maîtrise de

sciences politiques from the Université Panthéon Sorbonne (Paris I) and a Bsc in Political Science from the Université de Montréal (Canada). More on her professional career can be found [here](#).

Warm regards,
Min Jeong Kim
Director of the Division for Education 2030

Letter from Former International Coordinator, Julie SAITO

Dear ASPnet National Coordinators,

Dear Students and Teachers,

Dear Parents,

This is my last newsletter to contribute my message as my 17-year career at UNESCO comes to an end upon my retirement. I took the post as International Coordinator of Associated School of Network(ASPnet) in February 2020, six weeks before the Confinement due to COVID-19 started in France and in many countries around the world. Under the unprecedented circumstances, we as a coordination unit of the network of 12,000 schools in 182 countries asked ourselves a question “What is our mission” and “What can we do.” The answer we found was to facilitate the network members to “stay connected.” So, the first newsletter CONNECT was released in March 2020, first as on weekly basis and now as quarterly. Also through many webinars and meetings online, we were able to directly reach out to the ASPnet students and teachers and have their voices heard and liaised with our colleagues across the house of UNESCO.

These experiences under the pandemic reminded me of the first letter exchanges between the two high schools in Japan and Belgium immediately after the establishment of the network in 1953. A Japanese teacher simply sent a letter to a school in Belgium, asking to collaborate on a project together, and that’s how their relationship started. It was a beautiful example of how such initiative

contributed to the objective of ASPnet: to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding, as a basis of peace building and conciliation.

As we have grown into UNESCO's largest network, the International Coordination unit mobilizes its members through National Coordinators and I feel we need to do more to hear the voices of students and teachers on the ground. In this regard, I was lucky to see the presentations from 14 countries participating in the 5th World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium in Greece. On the theme of living heritage this year, students demonstrated their effort to answer the question: how to make the tradition revive today. On another occasion during the Cannes Film Festival in May, I also met 4 students from Portugal, a laureate of Mention prize of the Week of Sound Competition. Though studying in different classes, specialized in Arts, Science, History and Literature, they brought their expertise to create an animation video which beautifully reflected the key theme "Peace and Sustainability."

In short, no matter how technology advances to make our life easy to achieve many things, we need to listen to each other and collaborate in person, to make changes for the world more just, peaceful and sustainable. It was my honour and pleasure to have facilitated the ASPnet members to share this core value of the network.

My colleague Lydia Ruprecht will be succeeding me in this role. I wish her every success.

With much appreciation to your great collaboration, I wish all of you to stay happy and stay connected!

With very warm wishes,

[Julie Saito](#), Former ASPnet International Coordinator

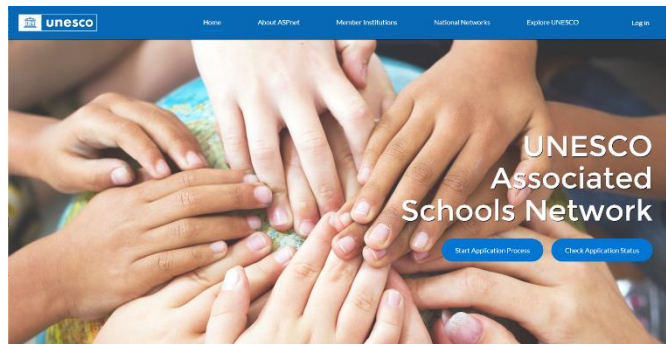


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The Latest Updates and News Highlights

Launch of UNESCO ASPnet Digital Platform

The new online platform of UNESCO ASPnet was officially launched on 21st March, 2024! This new tool includes a directory of member institutions and national networks. We invite you to visit the [new digital platform](#) and share it with your network. The directory currently includes 43 active National Networks with 4,907 active member institutions in total. In September 2024, when we upgrade the directory,



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the number will increase. On 22nd April, three information sessions were held to present the platform and its development to National Coordinators. 108 Participants from 72 different countries joined us. [Click here for the demo video](#) and share.



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UNESCO ASPnet STUDENTS AWARDED @CANNES FILM FESTIVAL



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During the 77th Cannes Festival, the award ceremony for the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) laureates of the 3rd edition of the Week of Sound international school competition "[When Sound Creates Image!](#)" took place, showcasing and screening the [20 nominated short films](#). Held on 16 May at the Alexandre III Theatre in Cannes, the event was a resounding success, celebrating the creativity and achievements of the ASPnet laureates, thanks to a unique partnership with the City of Cannes.

Gvidas Nagys (Grand Prix) from Lithuania and Samuel Saar (Jury Prize) from Estonia, as well as the 4 students from Portugal who won one of the Special Mentions, and their teachers, were present at Cannes and were marvelous! The members of the Jury were able to handover the prizes to the laureates, while Rone, the composer, gave a glowing commentary on their short films. The video messages by the laureates from Republic of Korea and Lebanon were also shown during the ceremony to a packed audience.

Launch event of the Arts for Transformative Education

A new UNESCO publication “Arts for Transformative Education: A guide for teachers from the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet)” was officially launched during the 5th World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium 2024, 17-21 April 2024, which was organized by the Hellenic Cultural and Educational Club for UNESCO.

This thinking tool for teachers was developed by analysing data from more than 600 teachers across 39 countries in the ASPnet, inviting teachers to harness the transformative power of the arts through the research-informed Arts for Transformative Education model. This tool supports UNESCO’s increasing engagement in support of Culture and Arts Education. [World Conference on Culture and Arts Education 2024 | UNESCO](#) [Read more](#)



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ASPnet Global Student Forum empowers young environmental journalists to take action



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Positivity, collaboration, inspiration, hope, and newfound friendships emerged as key takeaways for students and teachers from Bahrain, Finland, Gambia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Oman, and Republic of Korea during a dynamic 3-day online global student forum on environmental journalism. In this immersive virtual gathering, participants engaged in interactive workshops led by environmental experts and journalists. The aim was to empower students to become adept young reporters for the environment and fostering a culture of global collaborative action. [Read more](#)

Member Spotlight: News from ASPnet Community

Visit of the Director-General to the General Education Lyceum XLIV (44) “Stefan Banach”, Warsaw, Poland



© Malgorzata Herbich

On Monday 25th March 2024, the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay, undertook an official visit to the General Education Lyceum XLIV (44) “Stefan Banach”, an ASPnet school in Warsaw, Poland. During the visit of the Director-General the Lyceum presented two initiatives: i) the Polish UNESCO Associated schools “Gift a Poem” campaign organized since 2023 and ii) the European Union Erasmus+ E-twinning project “Refugees from Ukraine and refugees in Europe” organized in 2023. Representatives from 5 other UNESCO Associated Schools of Poland were also present. The success of the visit reflects UNESCO’s fruitful partnership with Poland, underpinned by the strong and longstanding cooperation with the Polish National Commission, particularly in the field of education.

The Cube of Freedom exhibition at the UNESCO Conference in the Hague

The Cube of Freedom was exhibited at the UNESCO Conference in The Hague, "Cultural Heritage and Peace: Building on 70 Years of The Hague Convention," from May 13–15, spreading the message of peace and hope and demonstrating the transformative power of arts education and the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet). The Cube of Freedom is a collective arts project involving schools and students from all around the world. For those who would like to participate:

Please contact bundeskoordination@unesco.de, the ASPnet Coordination in Germany.



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2024 Republic of Korean ASPnet Annual Conference

On March 22nd 2024, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) held the 2024 Korean UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) Annual Meeting in Seoul and online. The annual meeting was an opportunity to bring together the 485 ASPnet schools in the Republic of Korea to review the network's activities and achievements in 2023 and share plans for 2024. [Read more](#)



© Korean National Commission for UNESCO

2024 Canadian ASPnet Annual Conference



© York EUC Students

On April 9, the [Canadian Commission for UNESCO](#), in partnership with [Learning for a Sustainable Future](#) welcomed ASPnet students and teachers from across Canada to Toronto, ON to embark on a multi-day conference focused on climate change and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The event was hosted at the [Toronto Botanical Gardens](#) and the [Royal Ontario Museum](#) in partnership with York University. While all the educators attended a hands-on professional development session, students rotated through engaging workshops focused on many facets of sustainable development.

2024 Polish ASPnet Annual Conference

The annual conference of the Polish ASPnet took place on June 10-11, 2024, in Warsaw, Poland. The conference provided a unique opportunity to exchange methods of working within ASPnet at both international and national levels. Promising contacts were made for joint project implementation, and ideas such as using the eTwinning platform for ASPnet collaboration were discussed. The Baltic Sea Project,



© Małgorzata Herbich

ASPnet's 35-year flagship initiative, was also highlighted, connecting students from all Baltic Sea countries. During the conference, the Polish national coordinator, Małgorzata Herbich, summarised the Gift a Poem campaign organised in 2024 for the second time together with ASPnet. She presented the campaign website with a [map](#) of its coverage including this year's [reports from 22 countries](#).



© Małgorzata Herbich

“The UNESCO Journey” board game presentation



© NEXT Københavnns Mediegymsnasium

On March 13th, 2024, four students and two teachers from NEXT Københavnns Mediegymsnasium, a Danish ASPnet high school, presented the board game “The UNESCO Journey” at UNESCO Headquarters. Designed and crafted by the students, “The UNESCO Journey” is an innovative and educational board game developed at Copenhagen Media School in Denmark. [Read more](#)

Workshop on ASPnet Youth Participation

On February 13th, 2024, six Danish ASPnet Youth Ambassadors, accompanied by former Danish national coordinator Honar Abdollahi, and fifteen Japanese students, led by Prof. Kobayashi from Tamagawa University, a member of [ASPUnivNet](#), attended the workshop on ASPnet Youth Participation at UNESCO Headquarters. The workshop was designed to leverage the exemplary practices of its members to glean profound insights for ASPnet Young Ambassador program and cultivate mutual understanding and youth-driven initiatives within the ASPnet community.



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Concert of Peace

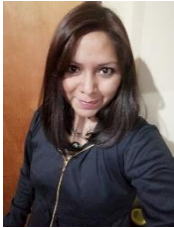


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On May 30th, 2024, the Concert of Peace took place at the Lycée International de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, an ASPnet school. The event featured a performance by the Princeton High School Orchestra and was supported by the French National Commission. Attendees included the former international coordinator of ASPnet, Julie Saito, and the French national coordinator, Ariane Lebot. Ms. Saito delivered a brief welcome message and performed the second movement of Ravel's Sonatine. The concert marked

the strength of the bonds uniting students
within the ASPnet community.

Meet Our New National Coordinators!



Bolivia ASPnet

Name: Elizabeth Dominga Anagua Garcia

Email: elizabethanaguagarcia@gmail.com



Denmark ASPnet

Name: Stine Sund Hald

Email: ssh@ungdomsbyen.dk



Egypt ASPnet

Name: Sherif Salah

Email: cherifalakwar@gmail.com



India ASPnet

Name: Anusree Raha

Email: anusree.raha@gov.in



Slovenia ASPnet
Name: Mojca Ruter
Email: mojcaruter@gmail.com



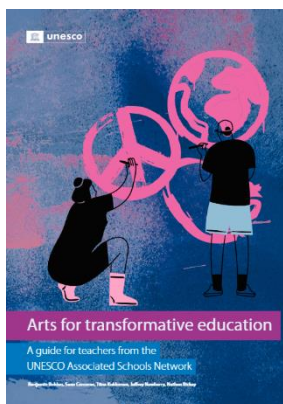
Sri Lanka ASPnet
Name: Gayani Kiriella
Email: gkirialla.slncu@gmail.com

Call For Participation

Help us find our new banner image!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our search for a brand-new banner image to represent our global community of ASPnet members. Our banner image is the first thing visitors see when they land on our [ASPnet website](#) and the [recently launched platform](#). It sets the tone for their experience and reflects the spirit of our community. We're seeking a banner image that embodies our values of ASPnet, celebrates our diversity, and inspires everyone who visits our platform. It can be a picture you already have somewhere, or it can be a graphic illustration. Proposals can be submitted through email (aspnet@unesco.org) by **31 July 2024**. Please read carefully the instructions and requirements [here](#).

Just Published



Arts for transformative education:
A guide for teachers from the
UNESCO Associated Schools
Network



Documentary -
Her Education, Our Future
in English, French, Chinese



Building strong foundations technical
briefs

Building strong foundations: what is
foundational education for health and
well-being?

Building strong foundations: what to
teach for foundational education for
health and well-being

Building strong foundations: how to
include the whole school in foundational
education for health and well-being

Building strong foundations: how to put
foundational education for health and
well-being into practice

UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners and responding to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.

The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



We encourage you to send us your messages of solidarity and other contributions, in words, pictures, videos and art works in order to build and strengthen our network, encourage and take care of each other.

Please send your contributions to ASPnet@unesco.org and Pengjia (p.zhong@unesco.org)

Get CONNECTED: <https://aspnet/unesco.org> Contact us: ASPnet@unesco.org

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