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## October 2010

### In this Eco-Schools Newsletter...

The coordination of Eco-Schools has moved to Copenhagen and has commenced the management of eco-schools and its projects and communications.

In this edition of the newsletter we highlight stories from around the world, special projects, our National Operators meeting in Scotland in November and strategic planning for the coming years.

Of special note is:

- our first Green Flag on The Bahamas,
- our first registered Eco-School in Oceania and
- our newest member country, Malaysia.

Toyota's International competition for the Environment and Innovation has been launched with

The HSBC-Eco-schools Climate Change Initiative has also been launched and will be the focus for a part of our National Operator meeting.

Sarah Pickering  
Bernard Holland  
International Eco-Schools Coordination



## MEET THE NEW ECO-SCHOOLS TEAM

The new coordination team commenced work in mid August and come with a wealth of experience to share and listening ears to learn from national operators.

### **Sarah Pickering** *International Eco-Schools Project Manager*

- Editor and communications specialist (7years) and journalist/ freelance journalist (12 years).
- International Communications Manager Climate Change Conference (COP15), Mandag Morgen and United Nations.

### **Bernard Holland:** *International Eco-Schools Coordinator*

- 31 years in Education: School principal (21 years) and education consultant (5 years) including ESD and Change Management.
- Qualifications include a Masters Degree in Educational Administration and a Masters Degree in Business Administration.



## WELCOME TO WWF-MALAYSIA

**Thiagarajan (Thiaga) Nadeson and Lasal Asirvatham are heading up our new Eco-Schools operation in Malaysia.**



We will welcome Thiaga and Lasal for the first time at the National Operators Meeting (NOM) in Scotland.

Thiaga is currently the Senior Manager for Formal Education and Lasal a Senior Education Officer. Both come to FEE with considerable experience in Environmental Education and ESD within the school sector.

They are currently developing their strategic plan and eco-schools resources for schools whole while driving up interest in registration from schools.



Pictured Right to Left Earlston McPhee, Hyacinth Winder, Winder, Dr Joanna Paul, and Hershah Knowles

## FIRST GREEN FLAG FOR BAHAMAS ECO-SCHOOLS

**On October 18, The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) and The Ministry of Tourism recognised Deep Creek Middle School's achievement of Green Flag certification. This school is the first Green Flag School in The Bahamas and English Speaking Caribbean to Receive this honor.**

During the ceremony, Hyacinth Winder Pratt, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, congratulated the students for being a game changer as the first school in The Bahamas and the region to receive such an honour. She stated that tourists list the beautiful beaches, clean water, and environment as a major attraction of the country. She encouraged the students to promise that they would get their parents, neighbours, and friends involved with promoting sustainability.

Founded in January 2010, the DCMS Eco-Club led the school on its journey to receive the Green Flag with pilot projects like the creation of a recycling center where students recycled capri sun pouches, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans. The Eco-Club members ensured no Styrofoam would be on campus by delivering 50 cent fines to those students who did not bring reusable lunch containers. They also installed fan and light timers to reduce electricity consumption.

## 2010 NATIONAL OPERATORS MEETING

**Scotland Eco-Schools is hosting the 2010 National Operators meeting for Eco-Schools in Edinburgh**



Preparations are well underway for International Eco-Schools major event for 2010 as it seeks to bring together expertise and experience in Eco-Schools in a model of sharing, discernment and strategic planning.

While there will be formal and traditional social occasions to ensure we know are in the land of the kilt and bagpipes, the gathering over 65 participants will undertake a series of workshops and presentations, with a view to visioning the future of eco-

schools as the largest network for environmental education, awareness raising and the development of the young leaders for tomorrow through education for sustainable development.

Scottish Eco-Schools  
[Early Years Guide](#)

In discussion will be sessions on our seven step Green Flag Certification process, how best to engage teachers and students, communication strategies, meetings around regional or shared issues, a mix and match session and displays from Scottish schools and out HSBC poster competition.



## E-TWINNING PILOT PROJECTS COMMENCE

**Seven teachers from seven schools in seven different countries are trialing e-Twinning as an educational collaboration tool for Eco-Schools**

Two days of training at the Maltese Education ICT Teacher training facilities saw confidence and skills grow within the participants of this important trial. While mainly European countries attended including Iceland, Denmark, Portugal, FYE Macedonia, Wales and Malta, Puerto Rico was also included to test the extent of [e-twinning](#) reach across continents and time zones.

Trial projects include an exchange of issues around 'transport to school' (Iceland, Wales and FYR Macedonia) using tools such as blogs, Youtube and [mixbook](#) (e-book), while an energy saving project between Portugal and Denmark highlighting energy conservation techniques, plans and measured outcomes. Puerto Rico and Malta will be working within the early years and focus on bio-diversity.

Teachers from Mata demonstrated their expertise in the e-Twinning technology and also encouraged participants to explore new 'freeware' mediums for gathering and displaying information such as:

- [Toondoo](#) that allows students to animate their stories i.e. how to make a worm farm or a the story of energy saving in the school.
- [Voki](#) that allows you to create an avatar to imitate a student speaking while saying their actual recorded voice...less bandwidth required than video
- [Sketchfu](#) that allows you to draw environmental landscapes, etc and can be included in your toonoo.
- [freshmeeting](#) that allows you to create meeting rooms for video chat and idea exchange between classes.
- [Vimeo](#) supports video sharing; and
- [Glogster](#) for Poster making

With all these possible inclusions teachers will elect one or two to use within their e-twinning space as a sharing platform. The e-Twinning space will allow for a secure, closed network for students to learn from each other within a purpose designed curriculum plan.

An evaluation of the projects will take place early in the new calendar year with continued or a second trial happening in 2011. A report will be presented to Eco-Schools National Operators meeting in 2011 with implications for future directions being considered at a board level in due course.



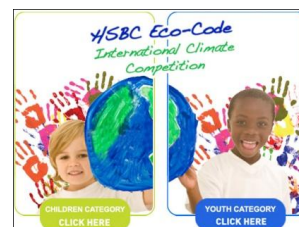
## HSBC LAUNCHES GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

**New member country kicks-off program with HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Change Initiative.**

The British High Commissioner to New Zealand Vicki Treadell (right) and Jennie Hewett from HSBC helped Rob Acton (National Operator) to launch the HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Change Initiative in Wellington, recently with Students from St Mary's College.

The British High Commissioner was of great assistance in linking Eco-Schools New Zealand and the HSBC Eco-Schools programme together. National Operator for Eco-Schools, Rob Acton, was particularly pleased to involve St Mary's College, Wellington as it had taken determined steps to becoming a model of environmental stewardship.

More news on the HSBC Climate Initiative can be found by clicking on these posters.



## THE ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION PROJECT

**The Environment and Innovation International Competition encourages schools to design real solutions to today's environmental problems. Winning entries receive a grant to put their ideas into action.**

The latest cycle, launched on 15 October 2010, with the theme 'Let's Reduce Waste! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', builds and expands on the previous cycle which focused on energy reduction.

The project is initiated and overseen by FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education) and its International Eco-Schools Programme with the support of TME (Toyota Motor Europe) Corporate Social Responsibility, through the Toyota Fund for Europe.

National Toyota retailers will once again work with schools, helping them to develop and implement these innovative environmental projects in the local community.