The UNESCO Associated Schools Network & the SDGs

National Symposium of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in Trinidad and Tobago: ASPnet as a catalyst for SDG 4 and Education 2030

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A global network

ASPnet is a global network of schools committed to the promotion of UNESCO’s values and principles, to experimentation and innovation and to collaboration and sharing

The facts:

✓ A global network with origins in 1953
✓ Mobilising over 11,000 schools in 181 countries
✓ A common goal: build the defenses of peace in the minds of children and young people
✓ A driver for innovation and quality in education
✓ Engages public and private institutions for pre-primary, primary, secondary and technical and vocational education as well as teacher training, in formal or non-formal settings
SDG 4: ‘Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’
Target 4.7:
By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

Target 4.a:
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
1. Strengthen governance and quality assurance of the ASPnet

- **Review** of responsibilities of members and general management
- **Establish** clear common rules and procedures
- **Updated guides** for National Coordinators and development of a guide for schools, other support materials
- **Advice and support** to National Coordinators and schools
- **Regular and systematic** consultations and communication
2. Contribution of the ASPnet to target 4.7 of SDG 4 – Education 2030 Agenda

• Design and launch global ASPnet flagship projects and other innovative initiatives
• Innovation: Do new things / do things in a new manner
• Promote net-working, collaboration and joint activities
• Increase the visibility through dissemination, on UNESCO Website, the governing bodies, the participation of ASPnet actors in events and document good practices
• Seek ways to inform policy debate and reform
• Mobilise new partners (NGOs, UNESCO Chairs, private sector)
ASPnet Workplan 2017-2019

- Regional and international meetings of National ASPnet Coordinators
- Flagship Project: “Getting Climate-Ready”, and on Global Citizenship Education (theme tbd)
- More projects/contests/campaigns for schools
- More opportunities for exchange and collaboration with other countries
- Further improve Online Tool for ASPnet - OTA to connect all actors around the world
- Dissemination of new guides and materials for teachers
UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Associated Schools
New Guides and Materials

Schools in Action
Global Citizens for Sustainable Development

A guide for Teachers

Schools in Action
Global Citizens for Sustainable Development

A guide for Students

Getting Climate-Ready
A guide for schools on climate action
New Support and Materials

**ASPnet Calendar** for OTA, including links and classroom materials, for

- Selected International Days
- International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)
- International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)
A whole-school approach to climate action means that an educational program includes action for reducing climate change in every aspect of school life. This includes school governance, teaching content and methodology, facilities and facilities management as well as cooperation with partners and wider communities. The active involvement of all internal and external stakeholders, namely students, teachers, principals, school staff at all levels, and the wider school community, including families and community partners in reflecting and acting on climate change is key to a successful implementation of the whole-school approach (the Sustainable School Benchmark, 2016).

Teachers and principals are the key to lead whole-school projects.
The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development: “Transforming our World”

ASPnet: Transforming schools, transforming teaching and learning, transforming education
World Teachers Day: Trinidad and Tobago honors its ASPnet teachers

On the occasion of World Teachers’ Day 2016, the National Commission for UNESCO of Trinidad and Tobago decided to pay tribute to some of its outstanding ASPnet teachers.

As in other countries, teachers are the key actors of the ASPnet. With 2016’s WTD theme: Valuing teachers, improving their status, Trinidad and Tobago sought to place focus on the mental well-being of teachers with a seminar on recognizing stress in their daily lives, along with local resources to deal with this issue.

The celebration ended with small presents being offered to the teachers, sourced from a local social enterprise that provides income to survivors of domestic abuse through jewelry making.

Representatives of the Ministry of Education, the National Teachers’ Union and the UN System in Trinidad and Tobago took part in this commemoration.