

Connecting Classrooms

Asian Dialogues

Developing Global Citizens

Local Authority Partnerships – Guidelines for Contact Seminars

The programme is open to Local Education Authorities or equivalents and secondary schools for young people between the ages of 11 and 14 in the UK and East Asia.

About the programme

The Asian Dialogues Project aims to build sustainable school partnerships, which will support the aims of national education systems to educate young people as global citizens and broaden the international view of young people. The partnerships will be between schools in the UK and 7 countries in East Asia, which include Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan.

The British Council will work together with partners in the UK and in the East Asia region at policy, LA, school leadership, and teacher level to create lasting relationships through collaborative curriculum-embedded and project-based exchanges.

In addition to global citizenship, creation of school partnerships correspond to a number of education priorities and policy initiatives within the Ministries of Education in the UK and the region, including the development of the ICT across curricula and the improvement of Foreign Language Education, especially in the area of English Language.

School partnerships also provide opportunities for teachers to deepen their cultural awareness, share effective practices and develop creative approaches to their teaching, which help broaden the view of their students and prepare them for engaging with the outside world.

Aims

The aims of Asian Dialogues are to:

- broaden the international view of young people, developing a deeper understanding and awareness of different world views and practices in their country and in the UK through school partnerships;
- broaden the international view of teachers, developing a deeper understanding and awareness of different world views and practices in their country and in the UK through school partnerships;
- support the aims of national education systems to educate young people as global citizens through school partnerships;
- enrich the international dimension of school curricula through school partnerships;
- build networks within participating countries through LAs or suitable partners to provide support for the development of area school partnerships between countries.

Process

1. Local Education Authorities or equivalents (LAs) in each country will submit an application form to join the initiative. The applications will be assessed against a set of criteria (see form), and relevance to the overall aims of Asian Dialogues.
2. Successful LAs and key school contacts from one lead school within the LA will be allocated places at a contact seminar in East Asia. They will be invited to attend a pre-contact seminar briefing in their own country.
3. Three representatives (one from the LA and one head teacher and teacher from the lead school) from the LA will participate in a contact seminar, in which they will meet their counterparts from two other participating countries and plan projects and activities. The contact seminar, including visa costs, travel, accommodation and subsistence, will be fully funded by The British Council. No supply cover costs will be provided.
4. During and following the contact seminar, a project plan will be developed by the paired UK and East Asia Regional Country clusters. This will be submitted to the Asian Dialogues project team and will be assessed against a set of criteria and relevance to the overall aims of Asian Dialogues. Funding for follow-up meetings with schools under your LA will be released on approval of the plan.
5. Clusters of schools in East Asia and the UK will develop and participate in collaborative curriculum projects together, over an initial period of three years.

Priority subject areas

Schools will choose to work together in one or more of the following subject areas:

- Climate Change
- Sports and Health
- Environmental Science
- Enterprise
- Tomorrow's World
- Science and Invention

All projects will address issues of Global Citizenship

Each cluster partnership will also address the following areas during the life of the project:

- Embedding internationalism across the curriculum
- Exploration of the concept of global citizenship
- Developing rich intercultural dialogue between young people
- Increased cultural awareness among students from participating clusters
- Opportunities for teacher development/ school leadership
- Innovative use of ICT in the classroom

Funding

LAs will be provided with a sum of up to £1,000* or the equivalent thereof, to support school meetings over the first year of the project according to a plan of activities that have been approved at the project planning stage during the contact seminar. Funding can be used to cover costs associated with dissemination to schools involved in the project, communication and materials for meetings. It may not be used to fund individual overseas visits or expenses not directly related to sharing information with the schools in the LA.

We recommend that LAs should be able to supplement this funding, although this is not essential.

*This does not include costs associated with the contact seminar, which will be covered by the British Council.

Deadline for application for contact seminars starting in 2008:

Please complete and return the application form by [date]. The contact seminars for successful applications will be held from March 2008. You will be allocated places at a contact seminar by the British Council.

Priority will be given to Local Authorities, schools and organisations in the UK which have been involved in developing the process and/or have already shown or expressed an interest in working with East Asian/UK schools.

LAs should be able to identify at least 10 secondary schools with which to work with on Asian dialogues as part of the application process.

Criteria

- Interested in developing a sustainable partnership with a minimum of 10 secondary schools (that will eventually include more than the initial 10 schools)
- Able to select a team of three to participate in the contact seminar.
- Interested in developing projects on the agreed themes linking to the domestic agendas
- Able to perform a coordinating role calling (at least) 4 meetings per year for the ten schools.
- Commitment to champion the project within the local authority.
- Able to identify 10 secondary schools within their authority prior to pre-contact seminar meeting
- Commitment to working on a three year programme with a cluster of a minimum of 3 LAs from East Asia and the UK
- Commitment to fostering intercultural dialogue through the partnership
- Commitment to building sustainable partnerships
- Commitment to educational goals as an integral part of the partnership
- Commitment to equity-based relationships recognising that every school has something to learn and every school has something to share
- Commitment to working together in support of the partnership within the LAs, the clusters of schools and within the wider community
- Commitment to working within a partnership for three years
- Commitment to sharing good practice across the cluster and beyond where possible
- Willingness to share information about your international link locally and more widely as appropriate
- Able to provide evidence of the support of senior management within schools involved in your LA