

Science across the World

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Science across the World (www.scienceacross.org) is an exchange programme for students, age 8-18, that combines resources in many languages with a database of 3200 participating schools in 100 countries all over the world.

SAW collaborates with many organisations like IUPAC and the British Council and gets financial support from the second largest pharmaceutical industry GlaxoSmithKline.

History

The programme started in 1990 as a project of the British Association for Science Education and has now grown into its flagship.

Science across the World was first supported by British Petroleum and from 2001 on by GlaxoSmithKline. The project is now active in 100 countries, with volunteer co-ordinators in many countries. The picture shows (left) Marianne Cutler, director of Science across the World, (middle) Kay Roberts, manager Education Programmes Global Community Partnerships of GlaxoSmithKline and (right) Louise Taylor, teacher from the Falkland



Community School on the Falkland Islands, subscribing her school in the 100th participating country in the programme.

From 1990 on resources about 16 different subjects were developed and translated in a number of languages. Our latest language on board is Chinese: 'Chemistry in our lives' (www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=79) and 'Talking about Genetics around the World' (www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=98). These resources are available to all schools in the World, either web based or downloadable.

Exchanges

Each topic has at least student pages, teachers pages and an exchange form. The exchange form highly contributes to the success of the programme: students and teachers know exactly what to exchange with other schools. Students find the activities for their research on the student pages, science as well as language teachers find support in the teachers pages. Data and information are exchanged via the standardised form. Students and teachers can carry out more and/or other activities, as long as they agree with students and teachers in their partner schools.

Students like to send pictures of themselves and their schools and exchange ideas about their lives.

Exchanging results means for most students using a foreign language. Science across the World is as much about communication as about science! The resources offer language teachers authentic texts and the students use the foreign language naturally during (electronic) exchanges.

Two international prizes



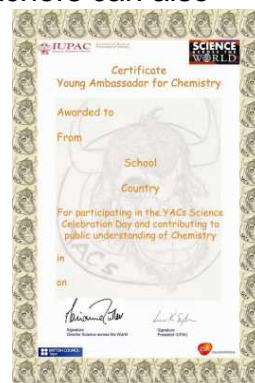
In 2004 Science across the World was awarded with two prestigious prizes: the European Award for Languages from the European Commission (www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=363) and The Global Best Award for innovative education-business partnership between the Association for Science Education and GlaxoSmithKline, judged on behalf of the International Partnership Network (www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=373). On the picture (left) Derek Bell, chief executive of the ASE and (right) Marianne Cutler, director of Science across the World, holding evidence of the two awards.

Collaboration with other organisations

Apart from the central support of GlaxoSmithKline's headquarters in London, local branches also help. Two examples.

In the Netherlands GlaxoSmithKline facilitates a yearly inset course for a maximum of 45 teachers in their premises in Zeist. During a day teachers are updated on Science across the World issues and on recent trends in pharmaceutical research: e.g. drugs for developing countries and registration drugs for children. The teachers can also network and exchange good practices.

An INSET course **Young Ambassadors for Chemistry (YAC)** in Taiwan was probably the best example of collaboration: a joint project between Science across the World and IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry: www.iupac.org/projects/2003/2003-055-1-050.html), locally organised by Prof Mei-Hung Chiu of the National Taiwan Normal University. Prof Chiu was supported by the



National Science Council, Taiwan, the Chinese Chemical Society, located in Taipei, the British Council, GlaxoSmithKline and of course by her own university. The YAC logo (left) was designed by Nicolás Fossati from the T.S. Eliot School in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The logos of all participating organisations were collected on the certificate for teachers and students (right).

On the pictures (left) two student participants with their YAC bags and balloons, (middle), students composing their DNA from sweets and (right) a young chemist producing a cosmetic line

(www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=587).



Competitions

After the first successful poster competition 'It's a Chemical World', also in partnership with IUPAC's Committee on Chemistry Education (www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2003/2506/1_schoen.html), the picture showing a winning entry from Rikado Yoshida, age 10, from Japan, Science across the World organises a new competition 'Physics across the World' in partnership with the British Institute of Physics to mark the Einstein year and the World Year of Physics 2005. Students, aged 10-16, are asked to create their own colourful posters to show how physics applications make their life better and how physics has a positive impact on their everyday life (www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=374).



More information

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