

GIN Network News

AAIE, Washington International School and the Global Issues Network have joined forces. Now in our second year, this collaboration is proving to be very effective. AAIE chose to take on a supportive/leadership role with GIN in order to reach out to the global community [Editor's note: *InterED*, Fall 2009]. The ongoing goal is to broaden the GIN network. We look forward to sharing the positive news created by the synergy that comes from joining forces.

Creating a "Global" GIN site:

<http://www.global-issues-network.org/>. We now have 535 members from 65 countries. By exploring the site, you can take part in the [events](#) listed, links to get your students inspired to join the network and get involved in local environmental projects. You may also watch the [videos](#), read the [current news](#) from student journalists around the world writing for [Student News Action Network](#), use the [resources](#), and have discussions with other members on the [forum](#). We sincerely encourage you to join this site.

Create a Global Issues Network group.

Identify an adviser and invite interested students to join. This group will serve as the "team" that will guide and support the environmental efforts. You may start by identifying all of the ongoing projects. Celebrate your efforts to date. Then begin thinking about the project that will be the focal point of the group's efforts. Identify the problem and begin to seek sustainable solutions. Think local!

By Linda Sills

Accept Global Citizenship; Engage in global problem-solving.

Jean Francois Rischard in his book, *High Noon: 20 Global Problems and 20 Years to Solve Them*, stresses the importance of addressing these global issues through the creation of global networks. "We indeed need two things on this beleaguered planet: 1) a new methodology for global problem-solving, that is, one that will help us navigate the very challenging decades ahead,

GIN: AFRICA

African Global Issues Service Summit 2011
Hosted By: American International School of Mozambique
Conference Dates: April 7 - 9, 2011
Location: AIS, Maputo, Mozambique
Organized By: Clare Diederichs (giss2011@aism-moz.com)

GIN: CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

AASSA Global Issues Network Conference
Hosted By: Colegio Franklin Delano
Roosevelt American School of Lima
Conference Dates October 21 - 23, 2011
Location: Colegio F.D. Roosevelt, Lima, Peru
Organized By: Russell Jones (rjones@amersol.edu.pe)

GIN: ASIA

EARCOS Global Issues
Network Conference- Our Choice, Our Future
Hosted By: Jakarta International School
Conference Date: April 7 - 10, 2011
Location: JIS, Jakarta, Indonesia
Organized By: Trish Davies (pdavies@jisedu.or.id)

and 2) a new mindset in the next generation... one rooted in a strong sense of being foremost a global citizen" (International Society for Technology in Education, 2010; online at <http://www.iste.org/>).

As Rischard has pointed out, students took his core idea and ran with it, somewhat to his surprise. So, in recognition of their efforts, I think it is a good idea to listen to their ideas about being involved in the GIN network.

Reflections from Europe—Iris Gramegna, 11th grader (French).

"As a student at the International School of Luxembourg, I got involved in the Global Issues Network when I was in the 8th grade. One reason I got involved was because it focuses on very important issues that surround us today and that will be of significance to our generation. Many of our problems are the result of years of unawareness, so getting young students together in such an environment as the «Global Issues Network» is a great way to raise awareness amongst the future generations who

will one day be in charge of the world. The first conference I participated in was a conference in Düsseldorf about «Sustainability». I also went to a regional conference in Milan and last year, in 2009, I attended a conference in Zürich about Poverty. Finally, I attended the annual Geneva conference of 2010: "Our People and Planet - Working towards a more secure future." These conferences have definitely made me more aware of what is happening around us. It has also enabled me to realize that if you really want to achieve something, you must

engage in specific projects."

"These conferences have also enabled me to be more confident in talking in front of people my own age. It is a fantastic experience to meet new people, make connections, take action, and possibly work with other schools on an international scale.

This year our school will be hosting the 2011 Annual Global Issues Conference in Luxembourg. It will take place on the 24, 25 and 26th of March 2011 in the Chamber of Commerce, with fantastic confer-

ence rooms and halls at our disposition. It will be the third time that we have hosted this event (the first 2 annual conferences were in Luxembourg) and I am positive that it will be a fabulous experience for many newcomers to the Global Issues Network and certainly also for returning, already motivated students. It is with great pleasure that we, as students of the International School of Luxembourg welcome you to Luxembourg for the annual GIN Conference, an opportunity not to be missed."

Reflections from Africa—by *Susan Lacy, GISS Lusaka Coordinator.*

The Global Issues Service Summit Africa 2010, hosted by the American International School of Lusaka in February, 2010 had over two hundred participants representing thirteen African nations. Over one hundred students from the greater Lusaka area competed for the sixteen local Golden Heart Scholarships to attend the Summit by answering the essay question, 'How I make a difference in my community.' Over a period of three days, students explored the Summit theme of "Seeking Sustainable Solutions Together." On days one and two students created con-

text with an emphasis on Africa and global issues related to the region and developed an *understanding of sustainability* through student-led workshops, student facilitated sustainability challenge teams, simulations, symposium panels and keynote speeches. Keynote speakers included Kimmie Weeks, Austin Gutwein and Hammer Simwinga. Finally, on day three, delegates enacted solutions across the Lusaka region with a day of service. Environmental sustainability was modeled throughout the Summit through meals grown and produced locally, conference mugs for tea and water, no glossy programs, and many other ecologically sound



practices. A primary goal of the Summit was to enable students to learn new ideas, build lasting relationships and networks, and return to their schools empowered to make a further difference in their communities and the global community. Student

GIN: EUROPE

GIN Europe Annual Conference

Hosted By: International School of Luxembourg

Conference Dates: March 24 - 26, 2011

Location: Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, Luxembourg

Organized By: Valerie Isbecque (visbecque@islux.lu)

GIN: MIDDLE EAST

Educare/Global Issues Conference

Hosted By: American Community School of Abu Dhabi

Conference Dates: January 28 - 30, 2011

Location: ACS, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Organized By: Anne Russell (annerussell@acs.sch.ae)

GIN: NORTH AMERICA

GIN Global Issues Network Conference

Hosted By: Washington International School

Conference Dates: February 18 - 19, 2011

Location: WIS, Washington DC, United States

Organized By: Kate Meenan-Waugh (meenan-waugh@wis.edu)

feedback confirmed that delegates were inspired by the Summit to apply sustainable tools towards positive change. In the words of one Golden Heart Scholar,

"...from the Summit these three things struck me most: the power of communication, the importance of making vital connections and contacts, which lead to relationships of great symbiosis and the impact that an individual's simplicity, initiative and creativity can have around the world. I now believe that these are not only the elements that lead to sustainable solutions but are key in unifying people from diverse backgrounds."

The Global Issues Service Summit Africa 2011 will be hosted by the American International School of Mozambique, April 7-9, 2011. Our 2009 and 2010 conferences were highly successful: "GISS taught me that the effort and dedication of one person can make the biggest difference," said Kiyoshi Buiyan, GISS Leadership Team (2010). The three day conference will conclude with a day of service as students "Build Partnerships of Sustainability Together." Conference coordinator, Clare Diederichs, can be reached at Email: giss2011@aism-moz.com (Website: <http://www.aism-moz.com/giss>).

Global Issues Come to the UAE

Inspired by the Doha Educare Conferences, and inspired by those who have made a difference by inspiring others, members of the ACS Global Issues Club returned to Abu Dhabi with a vision and a simple action plan: bring the Global Issues Conference to our school. With administrative support, we set the conference dates for Friday, January 28-Sunday, January 30. Our presenters include Kyleigh Kuhn from Roots of Peace (<http://www.rootsofpeace.org/>) and Justin Bedard of the Jump Foundation

(<http://www.jumpfoundation.org/>). As a thirteen year old, Kyleigh visited Croatia and saw the devastating effects of landmines. She started the Pennies for Peace campaigns that have resulted in building schools in Afghanistan and clearing areas to create safer paths for children to play. Justin was born in Malawi and is presently based in China. He has facilitated numerous leadership programs and worked with Global Issues groups for several years. Our vision is becoming a reality. The theme for the conference is INSPIRE. The aim of the conference is very straightforward: To

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inspire young people to “be the change” and show them how to reach what can seem like impossible tasks by acting locally and thinking globally. Testimonials from students who attended previous conferences:

From Juman Kekhia:

“When I got back from the Global Issues trip, I wanted change. I spent a week-end listening to how others changed their own communities and the broader world. I thought about what I could do to change my world. The conference gave me ideas and showed me really how much I can do, with a little determination. The biggest part of global issues was the inspiration of seeing such a large group of people come together for a common belief in the power to change the world! Global issues told me that it was possible to make a difference.”

From Nour Al Kudsi:

“The Global Issues Conference inspired me to make changes in my school. It made me look at the things that can change in my school. Attending the conference allowed me to take the big step of making a difference. Inspired by the group “Reduce the Juice” in Canada, I became aware of the dangers of car idling while parents are waiting to pick up their children. I have launched a campaign to stop idling and make the air outside our school cleaner.”

**GIN EARCOS—by Tim Carr,
Head, Jakarta International School**

The JIS community is thrilled to have the opportunity to host the fourth annual EARCOS GIN conference in Jakarta in April, 2011. Our hope is that the infusion of student activism from around East Asia will inspire our extended community to right some of the wrongs in our midst and in the world. This is the time for empathy-fueled action, as many global issues need urgent intervention. With their fresh perspective and creative ideas, it is clear to me that our students need to lead the way. GIN is the worldwide movement that is helping empower and inspire students to do just that. Simply put, GIN is the most exciting thing that I've seen as an educator in my career, as it provides opportunities for students to apply their emergent skills to heal some of the wounds that we've inflicted on our species and on our planet, all toward a

more sustainable future.

Reflections from Indonesia

From Prithika Madhavan—Jakarta International School Senior, Co-founder & President of GINDO.

“Three years ago, around this time of year, I remember reading an announcement in the daily bulletin regarding the first “Global Issues Network Conference” in Beijing. At the time, I thought it sounded like an extremely interesting convention and decided that I'd go along just for the fun of it. Little did I know that one trip to Beijing would change my life and the way I saw the world forever. It was during the time of the first GIN Conference that I realized just how ignorant and oblivious I was about the world and its problems. The keynote speakers, the workshops and the students at the Global Issues Network Conference had so much to offer, from teaching me about the *20 Global Issues* the world currently faces to discovering ways of altering them and looking for a global solution. This conference intrigued me so much that I automatically associated myself with the GIN network and went for every single GIN Conference the year after, in Bangkok, and then in Hong Kong the third year. After coming back from the Beijing GIN Conference, Carlo Falcon (an ex-JIS student, now at ISB) and I decided that we'd come up with a club of our own at JIS. We would incorporate the principles of “GIN”, except this time we'd add our own Indonesian twist to it and so followed the formation of the “GINDO” Club (Global Issues Network - Indonesia). Our focus was to educate local students from National Plus schools on the 20 major global issues facing our world today in a conference format and our aim was that they too would spread the word. The conference was a success the first year and went on to being an even bigger event the second year! After our second annual GINDO conference early this year, a group of Indonesian National Plus schools have decided to make GINDO a National event and this year, the 3rd annual GINDO Conference will be hosted by the Sinarmas World Academy. And, in April next year JIS will host the International “GIN” Conference at Jakarta International School for the very first time. Overall, I share a very special connection with the GIN network. Today, I feel the person I am is mainly because of GIN. The GIN network has instilled values of re-

sponsibility and conscientiousness in me. It has made me want to give back and make a difference. In short, GIN is the best thing that happened to me and I truly couldn't imagine what my life would be without it!”

From Jae Seong Yoo—Jakarta International School Senior, GINDO member.

“As much a cliché as it may sound, being a part of GIN and GINDO conferences for the past two years has been an unforgettable, life-changing experience for me. Being involved in GIN has far exceeded my initial purpose of joining it and the expectation I had for this conference. I initially joined GIN simply to develop a wider scope of knowledge on global issues occurring in different parts of the world and to keep myself updated with various world events. Yet this experience has not only helped me gain knowledge on global concerns but also changed the perspective on how I perceived world events. Instead of simply observing and soaking up the facts presented in front of me uncritically, I have gained the power to not only sort the facts from the falsehoods, but also connect one issue to another. Throughout my years at GIN, I have continuously battled against hypocrisy and evolved to be a true global citizen.”

From Kristina Kshatriya—JIS, 11th grade.

“GIN is a great way to let us, as students and young adults, realize our potential for creating change in the world. Before going to my first GIN conference I had no idea what I and other people my own age were capable of. Watching the student-led workshops and listening to the keynote speakers (some of whom were not much older than us) was extremely inspiring and left me wanting to do more...more to help the environment around me, more to raise awareness, more to let people know what a great opportunity GIN really is.”

Global Issues Network Coming to South America

It is now abundantly clear that we have at our fingertips all of the tools we need to solve the climate crisis. The only missing ingredient is collective will” (Al Gore). In response to Mr. Gore's call to action, Colegio Franklin D. Roosevelt, The American School of Lima, Peru, will host the first Global Issues Network (GIN) Conference for South America, October 21 to 23, 2011. Inspired by J. F. Rischard's

High Noon: Twenty Global Issues and Twenty Years to Solve Them, GIN Conferences have been held at International Schools throughout the world in recent years. Responding to Rischard's call for the creation of issue-centered networking, GIN Conferences bring student delegations together to discuss issues and create networks to communicate ideas for solutions. With support from Paul Poore and the AASSA Regional Organization as well as Linda Sills and AAIE, The American School of Lima is very pleased to provide this opportunity for regional schools to join the Global Issues Network. Additional information for schools wishing to participate will be communicated through the AASSA Newsletter and at the AASSA Educators' Conference March 31 to April 3 in Campinas, Brazil. (Russ Jones, Superintendent of Colegio FDR, The American School of Lima, Peru).

Reflections from D.C.,
by Emma Myers—School without Walls,
Washington, DC.

"I first participated in the Global Issues Network at the Anglo-American School of Moscow. It was the perfect place for

such a network, committed to international learning and the future. As I realize that now, I remember that in middle school, I saw it as a chance to have fun. Working with like-minded students, I was able to learn about different countries, the issues facing those countries and the issues facing the world. One of the projects we worked on was raising money to remove landmines in Angola. Before that, I knew very little about Angola, much less where it was. What I learned quickly changed many of the misconceptions I had about Africa. It is a continent faced with poverty and displacement. But, I began to realize that Africa is not a monolithic continent. It is a continent of diverse nations, each with its own concerns. In seventh grade, I was not able to travel to any conferences, but what I learned exposed me to the world just as well."

"I am now a high school junior at School Without Walls, a public school in Washington, D.C. Here, learning through interaction with the community—local, national and international—is the foundation of our curriculum. So, what better place to bring GIN? Our enthusiasm was matched by that of the administration at Washington Inter-

national School and within the network. With plenty of support, a group of juniors and I held our school's first GIN meeting a week ago. A dozen students came during lunch and we discussed projects and interests. We talked about shark finning and becoming pen-pals with a group of girls our age in Kenya—evidently everyone has a special interest. But, likewise, each of us has a particular passion, and we are all excited to make the School Without Walls an active part of the Global Issues Network."

As you can see, the GIN network offers students the opportunity to act positively in response to the dilemmas of the modern world. Hope and optimism and transformation are possible when young people see that they can become actors in the major problems that confront the societies they live in. Don't you think it's time to *be* GIN? ■

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