

JULY 2010



NEWSLETTER

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In this FEE Newsletter...

In this newsletter you can read about the very successful FEE General Assembly event held in Shenzhen, China on 1-3 July 2010 with the participation of representatives from 45 countries. There were a lot of constructive discussions at the meeting. Among the important conclusions were the decisions to test the unification of the FEE Secretariat (4 of 6 units) in the coming 2½ years, the decision to organise a consultative meeting in 2011 (discussing the future structure of FEE) and the decision to have the Green Key award for hotel chains.

The host, CEEC (FEE China), made tremendous efforts to ensure that the organisation of the FEE General Assembly event went very well and with a lot of nice side activities. The FEE Secretariat would like to thank CEEC and all participants for ensuring the success of our days together!

Two FEE Executive Board meetings were held in connection with the FEE General Assembly. One meeting was held to prepare for the FEE General Assembly, while the other was held for the new FEE Executive Board to constitute itself and to have the first ordinary meeting.

A new associate member organisation from Malaysia and a new affiliate member from US Virgin Islands have become members of FEE in the past period. In this newsletter, we would like to welcome the new organisations. FEE hereafter has 70 member organisations representing 61 countries.

We hope you will enjoy the reading of the FEE Newsletter.

Jan Eriksen, FEE President
Finn Bolding Thomsen, FEE Director
Joan Arildslund, FEE Assistant



FEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENT 1-3 JULY 2010

A very successful FEE General Assembly 2010 event was held in Shenzhen, China with representatives from 45 countries attending.

Here is information about the most important discussions and decisions from the meeting:

- Approval of the minutes of the FEE General Assembly and AGM 2009.
- Approval of the FEE Annual Report 2009/2010 and the FEE Annual Plan 2010/2011.
- Approval of the FEE Accounts 2009 and FEE Budgets 2011 (including the possibility to raise the fees/levies from 2011 at least equal to the EU inflation rate).
- Approval of the suggestion for testing the unification of the FEE Secretariat (current FEE Secretariat together with the International Blue Flag, Eco-Schools and YRE Coordinations) in the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2012.
- Decision to organise one big consultative meeting (replacing the regional meetings) in 2011 to discuss the future changes in the FEE structure administratively and politically.
- Approval of the Green Key for hotel chains concept, but without affiliate FEE membership for the hotel chains.
- Information about the 2010 status of implementing the FEE Objectives and Action Plan 2008-2012 and information about the coming production of the draft FEE Objectives and Action Plan 2012-2016.
- Information about the status of registering the FEE logos in the United Kingdom (home base of FEE).
- Information about FEE international material (including decision to have the FEE Annual Report 2010 mainly as an online resource) as well as information about FEE sponsorship work and the Working Party on Fundraising.
- Decision not to install a FEE Award recognising the performance in member organisations.
- Confirmation of associate FEE membership for World's Green Star (Iran) and confirmation of affiliate FEE membership for Tourism Development Company Ltd (Trinidad & Tobago) and Independent Institute for Environmental Concerns (Germany).
- Confirmation of upgrading from associate to full FEE membership for the following organisations: IAR (Brazil), JREDS (Jordan), KOEE (Kenya), KSPT (Russia) and Spirala (Slovakia).

- Confirmation of continued FEE membership for 9 full, 11 associate, 3 affiliate member organisations and 7 honorary members. A few associate member organisations had their membership confirmed under certain circumstances.
- Election of Petr Danis, Lourdes Díaz, Malcolm Powell and John Summers as FEE Executive Board members 2010-2012.

The FEE General Assembly was followed by a FEE AGM confirming the main decisions of the FEE General Assembly.

The planned break-out session was cancelled to leave time for the debate about the unification of the FEE Secretariat. The Members' Forum event held on 3 July had six plenary presentations.

Draft minutes from the FEE General Assembly and AGM will be produced before 1 September 2010 and placed on the internal pages of the FEE website together with the presentations from the Members' Forum.

During the FEE General Assembly event in Shenzhen, a FEE CO₂ compensation and Panasonic tree planting ceremony was held, a visit to local Eco-Schools was organised as well as a visit to the resort location of the event and participation for the attendants in the "China International Youth and Children Environmental Festival".

On behalf of all participants at the FEE General Assembly, the FEE Secretariat would like to thank CEEC (FEE China) as well as the local authorities in Shenzhen Municipality and Nanshan District for all their work on organising and hosting a memorable FEE General Assembly 2010 event.

For the FEE member organisations not yet having completed the evaluation form 2009/2010, please do so and return it to the FEE Secretariat before 15 August 2010. It is very helpful for FEE to know your feedback.

If you are an organisation wishing to and entitled to claim travel reimbursement, please remember that the deadline for requesting the reimbursement is 1 September 2010. Please use the standardised travel reimbursement sheet.



FEE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS ON 1 AND 3 JULY 2010

FEE Executive Board meetings were held on 1 and 3 July 2010 in Shenzhen, China in connection with the FEE General Assembly event.

The FEE Executive Board meeting on 1 July 2010 was mainly used for the preparation of the FEE General Assembly meeting. The status of FEE mentor visits, membership review and payments was discussed.

The FEE Executive Board meeting on 3 July 2010 was used for constitution of the Board and for a

regular meeting. The most important discussions and decisions of the FEE Executive Board meeting on 3 July were:

- Welcome to Petr Danis (Czech Republic) and John Summers (Scotland) as new FEE Executive Board members.
- Evaluation of the FEE General Assembly 2010.
- Approval of initiating negotiations with FEE France regarding the transfer of the International YRE Coordination to the FEE Secretariat at the earliest convenience.
- Decision to install a call for tender for hosting the International LEAF Coordination from 1 January 2011 until the latest to 31 December 2013.
- Re-appointment of Lourdes Díaz as FEE Vice-President and Malcolm Powell as Treasurer of FEE.
- Decision regarding mentors for associate FEE member organisations:
 - AHATA, Aruba (affiliate): Jan Eriksen
 - BREEF, Bahamas: Lourdes Díaz
 - IEW, Belgium-Wallonia: Henny Kromhout
 - World's Green Star: Michael Ierides
 - NEPT, Jamaica: Lourdes Díaz
 - FEE Japan, Japan: Malcolm Powell
 - EcoObraz, Kazakhstan: Henny Kromhout
 - OXO, FYR Macedonia: Petr Danis
 - EPIC, Sint Maarten: Jan Eriksen
 - TDC, Trinidad & Tobago (affiliate): Jan Eriksen
 - DECR, Turks & Caicos Islands (affiliate): Lourdes Díaz
 - CECOD, Uganda: Malcolm Powell
 - NGO "Ecological Initiative", Ukraine: Petr Danis
 - EWS, United Arab Emirates: Michael Ierides
 - NWF, USA: John Summers
- Decision regarding the political responsible for the FEE programmes:
 - Blue Flag: Malcolm Powell
 - Eco-Schools: Henny Kromhout
 - YRE: Petr Danis
 - LEAF: John Summers
 - Green Key: Michael Ierides
- Decision regarding the persons to be appointed for FEE steering committees (ISC) and international juries (IJ):
 - Blue Flag IJ: Malcolm Powell
 - YRE IJ: Petr Danis
 - LEAF ISC: John Summers and Dirk Vercammen
 - Green Key ISC: Michael Ierides and Sarah Winterton
- Approval of the minutes of the FEE Executive Board meeting on 24 April 2010.

- Decision to have Sarah Winterton continuing as the Chairman of the WP Fundraising.
- Decision to ask the International Green Key Coordination to produce, for distribution among FEE Executive Board members, an updated version of the Green Key for hotel chains concept including the changes as decided by the FEE General Assembly.
- Approval of the cooperation agreement between Blue Flag and Sail Training Tall Ships.
- Information about the status for the e-Twinning project in the Eco-Schools Programme.
- Information about the status of negotiations of a cooperation agreement between FEE/LEAF and Panasonic Japan and Panasonic Europe.
- Approval of request for funding from the FEE Contingency Fund from KSPT (FEE Russia).
- Approval of the membership strategy for attracting FEE member organisations from India and Mexico.
- Information that Finnish Association for Environmental Education, current affiliate member organisation, is planning to apply for associate FEE membership by the end of 2010.
- Rejection of associate FEE membership applications from organisations from Mauritius and Serbia.
- Approval of associate FEE membership for WWF-Malaysia and appointment of Malcolm Powell as mentor.
- Approval of affiliate FEE membership for US Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association and appointment of Lourdes Díaz as mentor.
- Information about meeting with International Lifesaving Federation regarding cooperation with FEE/Blue Flag.

The official minutes from the FEE Executive Board meeting will be approved at the next meeting on 16 October 2010 and subsequently placed on the internal pages of the FEE website.



NEW FEE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

The FEE Executive Board meeting on 3 July 2010 approved new FEE member organisations from Malaysia and US Virgin Islands.

At the FEE Executive Board meeting on 3 July 2010, associate FEE membership was approved for WWF-Malaysia. Malcolm Powell was appointed as mentor for the new organisation. WWF-

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Malaysia plans to start implementing the Eco-Schools Programme in Malaysia.

The FEE Executive Board furthermore approved affiliate FEE membership for US Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association (USVI HTA). Lourdes Díaz was appointed as mentor for the new organisation. USVI HTA will implement the Blue Flag Programme in the US Virgin Islands.

Contact information to the new organisations can be found on the FEE website. FEE hereafter has 70 member organisations representing 61 countries! A warm welcome to the new organisations.



CALL FOR TENDER FOR HOSTING THE LEAF COORDINATION

The current hosting agreement between the Forestry Extension Institute and FEE on hosting the International LEAF Coordination terminates on 31 December 2010.

According to the procedures, FEE would like to announce a call for tender for the hosting of the International LEAF Coordination in the period 1 January 2011 and until the latest 31 December 2013.

The current host organisation, the Forestry Extension Institute, has indicated its interest in continuing hosting the International LEAF Coordination in the coming period.

The call for tender must include information about the planned objectives for the LEAF Programme in the coming three years. Suggestion for plan of action to fulfil the objectives can be included as well.

In order to see the general conditions for hosting a FEE programme coordination, the hosting agreement between the hosting organisation and FEE can be downloaded from the internal pages of the FEE website.

We would kindly ask for the official expression of interest for hosting the International LEAF Coordination to be sent to the FEE Secretariat before 15 September 2010.



NEW STAFF IN THE FEE SECRETARIAT

The International Eco-Schools and YRE Coordinations will soon move to the location of the FEE Secretariat.

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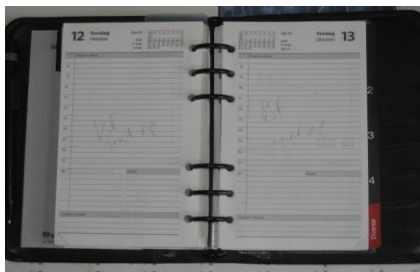
The International Eco-Schools Coordination will move to the office of the FEE Secretariat by 16 August 2010.

For the positions as new International Eco-Schools Coordinator and Project Manager, the FEE Secretariat received 113 applications with candidates from around 35 nationalities. 12 candidates (from 8 different nationalities) were called in for the first job interview, and 6 candidates (from 4 different nationalities) were called in for the second interview.

Mr Bernard Holland will become the new International Eco-Schools Coordinator. Bernard is 51 years old, Australian citizen, currently working for Brisbane Catholic Education. He has a Bachelor in Education and a Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Bernard will be moving to Copenhagen together with his wife.

Ms Sarah Pickering will become new International Eco-Schools Project Manager. Sarah is 33 years old, UK citizen, currently working for the Secretariat of Copenhagen Climate Council. She has a Bachelor in English with Education and a Post Graduate Diploma in Newspaper Journalism. Sarah lives in Copenhagen.

The International YRE Coordination will during the coming months as well move to the office of the FEE Secretariat (exact transfer date will be agreed upon with the current hosting organisation, FEEE France). Ms Sarah Pickering will expectedly as well be the new International YRE Coordinator.



FEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please find below the updated FEE calendar of events.

- Blue Flag International Jury meeting, 29 September 2010, Skype meeting
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 16 October 2010, Corfu, Greece
- LEAF International Steering Committee meeting, 20 October 2010, Helsinki, Finland
- Blue Flag national operator meeting, 22-23 October 2010, Zagreb, Croatia
- Green Key International Steering Committee meeting, 16 November 2010, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Eco-Schools national operator meeting, 17-19 November 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 4-5 February 2011, Limassol, Cyprus
- LEAF national operator meeting, March 2011
- Green Key national operator meeting, April 2011, Japan
- Blue Flag International Jury meeting, 29 April 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 1 May 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 28 June 2011
- Blue Flag national operator meeting, October 2011, Germany
- Eco-Schools national operator meeting, November 2011, Poland

- Blue Flag national operator meeting, October 2012, Wales
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VACATION IN THE FEE SECRETARIAT

The persons in the FEE Secretariat have summer vacation as indicated below.

- Jan Eriksen (FEE President) has vacation from 7 July and until 1 August.
- Finn Bolding Thomsen (FEE Director) has vacation from 12 July and until 8 August.
- Joan Arildslund (FEE Assistant) has vacation from 19 July and until 8 August.

During the period 19 July – 1 August, Sophie Bachet (International Blue Flag Coordinator) will be available to answer urgent FEE issues.
