

MARCH 2010



# NEWSLETTER

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## MARCH 2010

### In this FEE Newsletter...

The FEE Executive Board met in Cardiff, Wales on 5-6 February 2010. The main issue for discussion was the suggestion for a change in the future international FEE administration from hosting organisations to one gathered office. In this newsletter you can read more about the proposal to be presented in a letter from the President and as well at the FEE General Assembly 2010 for discussion and decision.

The future location of the International Eco-Schools and YRE Coordinations was also discussed at the FEE Executive Board meeting, information about the status of the work in the FEE working parties was given and a new associate member organisation from Iran was approved.

CEEC (FEE China) and the FEE Secretariat are busy with the preparations for the FEE General Assembly 2010 event in Shenzhen, China. Besides the official General Assembly and AGM meetings and Members Forum event, school visits and a tree planting event are furthermore being planned. Please book your flight and register your attendance before 1 May 2010.

Finally, we would like to highlight that the information about FEE and the five FEE programmes has been updated on Wikipedia and we are working on improving our presence on various other communication tools (Facebook, Twitter, etc).

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 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON 5-6 FEBRUARY 2010

A FEE Executive Board meeting was held on 5 February (brainstorm meeting) and 6 February 2010 (ordinary meeting) in Cardiff, Wales

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

- Approval of the minutes of the FEE Executive Board meetings on 31 October and 1 November 2009.
- Decision to ask the solicitor to write to the Ministry of Tourism in Costa Rica regarding the use of the Blue Flag name.
- Information about the status of the use of the Donation Shop and the idea for the future development of the tool.
- Discussion about FEE membership for International Hotel Chains joining Green Key (a proposal will be developed for the FEE Executive Board meeting).
- Ratification of the decision regarding the Blue Flag water quality criterion (as recommended by the Blue Flag national operator meeting 2009).
- Decision to keep the old wording for the Blue Flag beach criterion regarding access for disabled people (access to the beach instead of access to the water).
- Information that Panasonic and FEE/LEAF Coordination have entered an agreement of around €480,000 for the tree planting project in 2010.
- Decision to establish an Eco-Schools working party regarding themes, but not to establish working parties on the national operator meeting 2010 or regarding a formal system of having experienced national operators mentoring new national operators.
- Encouragement to initiate an international research study about the effects of Eco-Schools.
- Discussion about the difficult financial situation in the International YRE Coordination and decision to have an unofficial YRE national operator meeting as a Skype meeting in March 2010.
- Decision to transfer the International Eco-Schools Coordination to the Danish Outdoor Council to be gathered with the FEE Secretariat and the International Blue Flag Coordination for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2012.
- Decision not to move the hosting of the International YRE Coordination to Portugal, but instead either keeping the current hosting organisation (FEE France) or moving the

International YRE Coordination together with the FEE Secretariat, Blue Flag and Eco-Schools Coordination (depending on wish of FEE France).

- Decision to continue working with the proposal of gathering the international FEE administration in one office. The idea will be presented in a letter from the President of FEE to all member organisations and a subsequent proposal (including time frame) will be produced for presentation at the FEE General Assembly 2010 for discussion and decision.
- Approval of the final FEE budgets for 2010.
- Decision to continue using the current external accountant (Mazars) after receiving comparatively more expensive offers from two other external accountants regarding the auditing of the accounts of FEE.
- Information about the update of the GDP list of countries with member organisations (Estonia moving from Group A to B and Montenegro moving from Group B to C).
- Discussion about the FEE Friends and Ambassadors concept and decision to test the idea in 2010.
- Information about the status of work in the Working Party Fundraising.
- Decision to postpone the work in the Working Party Finances for half a year.
- Approval of the FEE Design Manual (for the international level of FEE).
- Decision to ensure the registration of the FEE logos in the UK (as the home country of FEE).
- Decision to change the name of FEE's CO<sub>2</sub> Fund to "FEE's Global Forest Fund" and approval of new CO<sub>2</sub> prices and new application form and procedure for the use of the Fund.
- Information about the situation in Finland in the work towards identifying a new associate/full FEE member organisation (after meetings with the current two affiliate member organisations).
- Decision to give KOEE (FEE Kenya) the possibility to apply a 6<sup>th</sup> year of associate membership.
- Approval of the FEE membership evaluation 2010 request.
- Approval of the application for associate FEE membership for "World Green Star" from Iran.
- Information about negotiations with the two affiliate member organisations from Finland regarding transfer to associate FEE membership in Finland.

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



## PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FEE ADMINISTRATION

**Due to the growth of FEE, the FEE Executive Board would like to propose a change of the international FEE administration into one gathered FEE Secretariat**

The President of FEE has on behalf of the FEE Executive Board sent a letter to all FEE member organisations informing about a suggestion for changing the international administration of FEE.

A unanimous FEE Executive Board would like to propose a gathering of the FEE Secretariat and five International Programme Coordinations into one unit.

The planned change in administration is suggested based on the situation with the growth of the organisation in membership (to almost 70 member organisations), the political changes (to biannual meetings) and the financial changes (with larger sponsorships) requiring a more work efficient and cost efficient administration.

The proposal will be brought to the FEE General Assembly 2010 for a thorough discussion. As the first experimental step, the gathering of the International Eco-Schools Coordination with the current FEE Secretariat and International Blue Flag Coordination is suggested. If wished by current hosting organisation of the International YRE Coordination, this Coordination will as well be gathered with the unified FEE office.

After a principle support at the FEE General Assembly 2010 to test the idea, the discussion about the future administrative structure of FEE as well as a discussion about other changes in the structure of FEE will continue at six regional meetings in 2011 (first year without a FEE General Assembly). The outcome of the regional meetings will be included into a final suggestion for the future international administration of FEE to be presented at the FEE General Assembly 2012.

All member organisations are encouraged to give their comments/feedback to the letter with the proposal for deciding on the changes in international administration of FEE.



## NEW ASSOCIATE FEE MEMBER ORGANISATION

**The FEE Executive Board approved associate FEE membership for the organisation "World Green Star" from Iran**

At the FEE Executive Board meeting on 6 February 2010, associate FEE membership was approved for the organisation "World Green Star" from Iran. The organisation wishes to start the implementation of the Eco-Schools Programme. A warm welcome to the new organisation.

Contact information to the new organisation can be found on the FEE website. FEE hereafter has 69 member organisations representing 60 countries!



## FEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010 IN CHINA

CEEC (FEE China) and FEE are busy with the planning of the FEE General Assembly 2010 in Shenzhen, China taking place 1-3 July 2010

The FEE General Assembly 2010 will take place in Shenzhen (neighbouring city to Hong Kong) with the following draft itinerary:

Wednesday 30 June 2010:

- Arrival and transfer from airport to hotel
- Informal city tour
- Evening: Dinner

Thursday 1 July 2010:

- 08.30-12.00: Tree planting event and city tour
- 14.00-16.00: School event
- Executive Board meeting
- Evening: Welcome dinner

Friday 2 July 2010:

- 08.30-09.00: Opening ceremony
- 09.00 – 18.00: General Assembly and AGM
- Evening: Dinner and local cultural event

Saturday 3 July 2010:

- 08.30 – 17.00: Members Forum
- Executive Board meeting
- International Coordinator meeting
- Evening: Farewell dinner and gala event

Sunday 4 July 2010:

- Transfer from hotel to airport and departure
- Informal side events

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All delegates for the FEE General Assembly 2010 fly into the airport of Shenzhen or alternatively Hong Kong. All attendants are encouraged to start looking for suitable travels. As the travel will be long for most attendants, all participants are kindly requested to look for the cheapest possible travel option. If you can only find a very expensive ticket, please contact the FEE Secretariat for a double check of the travel possibility. Please book your ticket and send the completed registration form to the FEE Secretariat by the latest on 1 May 2010.

Most of us will need invitation letter from our host organisation (CEEC, FEE China) in order to obtain visa for the trip. Such invitation letter will be issued to each of the participants after having sent us the travel registration.

We look forward to a memorable meeting in China in 2010. We will currently keep you updated with more detailed information about the event.



## **FEE WORKING PARTIES ON FUNDRAISING AND FINANCES**

**The Working Party Fundraising has been established and has begun the work, while the Working Party Finances is currently on hold due to the planned changes in the international FEE administration**

The Working Party Fundraising has been established with the following persons: Sarah Winterton (FEE Executive Board member, Working Party Chairman), Henny Kromhout (Executive Board), Dee Bingham (FEE England), Michael John O'Mahony (FEE Ireland), Alison Kelly (FEE South Africa), Marinez Scherer (FEE Brazil), Erik van Dijk (Green Key) and Finn Bolding Thomsen (FEE Director, Working Party Secretary). Based on the feedback from the Working Party members, a Skype meeting is planned for 17 March to discuss the good experiences achieved so far, the main funding focus areas, the proposal for FEE friends and ambassadors, the sponsorship package and the next steps in the process.

Regarding the Working Party Finances, no representatives from FEE member organisations volunteered to join the Working Party. With the current planned changes in the international administration of FEE, the FEE Executive Board decided to postpone the work of the Working Party Finances.



## **FEE AWARD**

**The FEE Executive Board has decided to install a "FEE Award" and the nomination deadline for the 2010 Award is 1 April 2010!**

As mentioned in the last FEE Newsletter, the FEE Executive Board has decided to establish a "FEE Award" in order to recognise extraordinary efforts done by a FEE member organisation or an individual within FEE. The special efforts can be concerning environmental education in general, a special contribution to FEE in general or a special contribution within a FEE programme in particular.

The award is based on incoming suggestions with motivation from member organisations, international programme coordinators and the FEE Executive Board members. International programme coordinators are as well encouraged to involve programme national operators. Nomination deadline for the 2010 FEE Award is 1 April 2010. The award jury is the FEE Executive Board.

The receiver of the award will be published at a small ceremony during the FEE General Assembly 2010 in China. The winner will furthermore be announced in a press release, in the FEE newsletter and website. The award is symbolic and accompanied with a motivation from the President and a certificate.



FOUNDATION FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

HANDBOOK FOR  
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS  
2010

## FEE MATERIAL

**The FEE Handbook for member organisations 2010 is now available on the internal pages of the FEE website. The FEE Annual Report 2009 is furthermore under production**

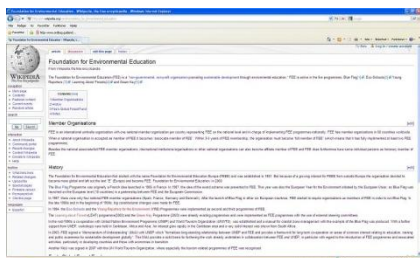
FEE has updated and slightly enlarged the information in the 2010 edition of the FEE Handbook for member organisations. It is placed for download on the internal pages of the FEE website as the full gathered handbook and each individual chapter and annexes.

As new features in the handbook is a document describing the services from the International Programme Coordinators to national operators (annex 3B), FEE's structure chart (annex 4E), and new factsheets for FEE and the FEE programmes as well as FEE success stories (annex 7C).

If any of the documents (handbook annexes) are updated during the year, new documents will be placed on internal pages.

The 2010 FEE Handbook for Executive Board members (and potential Executive Board members) will be placed on the internal pages of the FEE website before mid March 2010.

The FEE Secretariat and International Programme Coordinators are furthermore working on the production of the FEE Annual Report 2009. The publication will be made in the same format as in the previous years. We expect the publication to be ready in April 2010 and we will send the number of copies to you as you have requested.

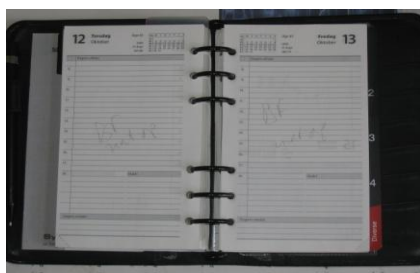


## FEE ON WIKIPEDIA

**FEE and all FEE programmes are now having updated information on Wikipedia. The FEE Secretariat is furthermore planning to enlarge our communication via tools such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.**

FEE has ensured that updated information about FEE overall and each of the five FEE programmes is now available on Wikipedia.org. If you have comments or suggestions to the information about FEE in Wikipedia, please do not hesitate to contact the FEE Secretariat. It is our intention to update the information about FEE on Wikipedia at least annually.

Melissa van Hauen is an intern working in the FEE Secretariat in March 2010. She has an education in communication. She will be analysing how FEE can enlarge the communication via tools such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. We will keep you informed about any further developments.



## FEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Below find information about the events planned in FEE**

- Blue Flag International Jury meeting, 22 April 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 23 April 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 1 July 2010, Shenzhen, China
- FEE General Assembly, 1-3 July 2010, Shenzhen, China
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 3 July 2010, Shenzhen, China
- Blue Flag International Jury meeting, 22 September 2010, Skype meeting
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 16 October 2010, Corfu, Greece
- Blue Flag national operator meeting, 22-23 October 2010, Split, Croatia
- Eco-Schools national operator meeting, 17-19 November 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland
- Green Key national operator meeting, January 2011, Japan
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 4-5 February 2011, Cyprus
- Blue Flag International Jury meeting, 29 April 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 30 April 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark
- FEE Executive Board meeting, 28 June 2011, Skype meeting