

MAY 2010



NEWSLETTER

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In this FEE Newsletter...

At the FEE Executive Board meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 24 April 2010 the main issue for discussion was again the suggestion for a change in the future international FEE administration to one gathered office. The feedback from 12 member organisations to a letter from the FEE President on the issue was in overall very positive. In this newsletter you can read more about the issue of unifying the FEE Secretariat that will be discussed and decided upon at the FEE General Assembly 2010.

CEEC (FEE China) and the FEE Secretariat are busy with the preparations for the FEE General Assembly 2010 event in Shenzhen, China. In this newsletter, you can read about the status of the preparation with the last registrations being received now, the draft itinerary, agenda and forms having been sent out and the final material being under production to be sent out by the latest on 10 June 2010. We look forward to meeting most of you in China!

This Newsletter furthermore has information from the Blue Flag Programme regarding the outcome of the International Blue Flag Jury meeting and information from the LEAF Programme regarding the cooperation with Panasonic. There is as well an article from Spirala (FEE Slovakia) requesting support for the protection of unique nature in Slovakia.

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 24 APRIL 2010

A FEE Executive Board meeting was held on 24 April in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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

- Approval of the minutes of the FEE Executive Board meetings on 5-6 February 2010.
- Information about the produced FEE Annual Reports 2009 and FEE pins.
- Information about FEE on Wikipedia and Facebook.
- Information about the outcome of the International Blue Flag Jury meeting on 23 April 2010.
- Information about the Eco-Schools Programme entering a cooperation agreement with the “e-Twinning Project” on developing a school twinning tool.
- Discussion about affiliate FEE membership for International Hotel Chains joining Green Key (a final proposal will be developed for the FEE General Assembly 2010).
- Information about the YRE national operator meeting held as a Skype meeting on 22 March 2010.
- Approval of the draft management accounts 2009 for the FEE Secretariat (that will now also start having International Programme Coordination accounts included).
- Information about unpaid FEE membership fee and Green Key levy and the new procedures regarding interests in case of continued lack of payment.
- Decision to suggest the FEE General Assembly 2010 that the fees/levies can be increased at least equal to the EU inflation rate.
- Decision to support the request for funding from the FEE Contingency Fund from IEP (FEE Chile) and ECOM (FEE Montenegro).
- Decision to write a new letter to all member organisations from the President of FEE regarding the unification of the FEE Secretariat with reflections on the feedback to the first letter to member organisations.
- Decision to slightly adapt the time line document regarding the potential unification process and present it at the FEE General Assembly 2010.
- Information about the job advertisements for the coordinator and project manager positions

in the Eco-Schools Coordination after moving to Copenhagen.

- Decision to have the International YRE Coordination hosted together with the FEE Secretariat for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012 (on condition of approval of the testing period of unifying the FEE units at the FEE General Assembly 2010).
- Approval of the suggestion for regional meetings in 2011 document to be presented at the FEE General Assembly 2010.
- Discussion about slightly changing the Terms of Reference for the Working Party on Fundraising to become an advisory board supporting the activities of FEE on fundraising.
- Information about the status of registration of the FEE logos in the UK and decision to monitor and defend instances of infringement.
- Information about the status of work with the FEE Friends and Ambassadors concept.
- Decision to present the “FEE Award” concept at the FEE General Assembly 2010 for discussion (as no nominations for the award had been received).
- Decision to target organisations in India and Mexico in order to explore potential FEE membership and engagement in the strategically important two countries.
- Information about the planned work on FEE’s communication strategy.
- Information about tasks in the five FEE programmes to reach full programme implementation.
- Decision to have an agreement between FEE, FEE France and a hotel in Monaco interested in Green Key regarding joint efforts on ensuring FEE membership for Monaco.
- Approval of the recommendations in the FEE membership review: continued full membership for 9 organisations, upgrading from associate to full membership for 4 organisations, continued associate membership for 12 organisations (one organisation needed to provide additional information), continued affiliate membership for 3 organisations and continued honorary membership for 7 members.
- Information about upcoming applications for membership from Serbia, Mauritius and US Virgin Islands.
- Approval of the draft itinerary and agenda and other documents for the FEE General Assembly 2010.

The FEE Executive Board members and International Programme Coordinators stayed at a Green Key hotel in central Copenhagen.

The official minutes from the FEE Executive Board meeting will be approved at the next meeting on 3 July 2010 and subsequently placed on the internal pages of the FEE website.



PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FEE ADMINISTRATION

The letter from the President of FEE, on behalf of the FEE Executive Board, suggesting a change in the international FEE administration was well received by the member organisations.

After the FEE Executive Board unanimously supported the idea of gathering the FEE Secretariat and five International Programme Coordinations into one unit, a letter from the President of FEE was sent out on 7 March 2010.

As the letter indicates, the first experimental step in a unification process would be the gathering of the International Eco-Schools and YRE Coordinations with the current FEE Secretariat and International Blue Flag Coordination. After acceptance by the FEE General Assembly 2010 of testing the unification of the international administration, 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 in 2012.

12 member organisations have sent their feedback to the letter from the President well receiving the suggestion for testing a unified FEE office in the coming 2½ years. Various issues were raised in the feedback from the member organisations, so the FEE Executive Board therefore decided to address these issues in a new letter to all member organisations that were sent out on 7 May 2010.

The proposal as indicated in the letter from the President will be brought to the FEE General Assembly 2010 for a thorough discussion and decision.



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 with the following itinerary:

Wednesday 30 June 2010

Arrival and transfer from airport to hotel, Informal city tour and Dinner.

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Thursday 1 July 2010

Tree planting event and visiting the Evergreen Resort, School event and Meeting with HSBC China delegates, Executive Board meeting and Welcome dinner.

Friday 2 July 2010

Opening ceremony (welcome speech by local municipality and CEEC with HSBC Climate Eco-code Exhibition), General Assembly and AGM, Dinner and local cultural event.

Saturday 3 July 2010

Members Forum, Executive Board meeting, International Coordinator meeting, Farewell dinner and gala event.

Sunday 4 July 2010

Informal side events, Transfer from hotel to airport and departure

A few attendants have not yet booked the trip, so CEEC (FEE China) and the FEE Secretariat have decided to extend the registration deadline to 28 May 2010. Invitation letters, in order to apply for visa for entering China, have been sent out to attendants after their registration.

The draft agenda for the General Assembly and AGM meetings has been sent out and placed on the internal pages of the FEE website. Any suggestions to the agenda must be reported before 28 May 2010.

The forms for nominating persons for the FEE Executive Board and for suggesting presentations for the Members Forum have been sent out as well and also placed on the internal pages of the FEE website. If you wish to use the forms, please complete them and return them to the FEE Secretariat before 28 May 2010.

The final agenda, itinerary, practical information and material for the FEE General Assembly will be sent by the very latest on 10 June 2010 and as well placed on the internal pages of the FEE website. We look forward to a memorable meeting in China in 2010.



NEWS FROM BLUE FLAG: INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY AWARDS 2010

The International Blue Flag Jury met on 23 April 2010 and awarded the Blue Flag to 2884 beaches and 627 marinas in 33 countries.

The International Blue Flag Jury met on 23 April 2010 to review the Blue Flag candidates from the northern hemisphere: Europe, Morocco, Tunisia and Canada. The International Jury decided to award the Blue Flag to 2884 beaches and 627 marinas in 33 countries in the northern hemisphere. For the first time the Blue Flag was awarded to beaches in Ukraine while sites in Trinidad & Tobago, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates are ready to join the programme with pilot sites. More detailed information about the 2010 awards will be published on the Blue Flag website www.blueflag.org on 5 June 2010.

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Every year, the National Blue Flag Jury studies in detail all the Blue Flag candidates, assuring their compliance with all beach and marina criteria on national and international level. Those accepted candidates are then forwarded to the International Jury, who focuses on certain criteria that vary from year to year, and give their final decision after having discussed and reviewed the candidates.

The Blue Flag programme has always been a precursor for introducing environmental education, safety and services on its sites to the general public. Continuously striving towards higher standards, the Blue Flag decided in 2007 that it was time for a change in its bathing water quality criteria, therefore initiating an ongoing process of discussions with technical and scientific experts. A new international standard which could apply to all the participating countries worldwide was agreed upon. This year was the first year where the new bathing water quality criteria was tested and adopted by certain countries. In a transition phase and until 2012, the countries have the possibility to apply either the old or the new Blue Flag bathing water quality. The International Jury has been very pleased with the use of the new bathing water quality criteria for its first year.

The International Blue Flag Jury will be meeting in September 2010, to evaluate the Blue Flag candidate beaches and marinas from South Africa, the countries of the Caribbean, Brazil and New Zealand.

The International Blue Flag Jury is composed of representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), International Lifesaving Federation (ILS), the European Environment Agency (EEA), European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), an Environmental Education expert, the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) and the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

The Blue Flag highly appreciates the good cooperation with its sponsors and would like to thank Corona Extra, Shipmate and BeachTech for their support over the years.

Last but not least, the Blue Flag International Jury would like to congratulate all awarded sites for their commitment to the programme and invaluable willingness in bringing their sites to very high quality standards for the benefits of the public.



NEWS FROM LEAF: SCHOOL FOREST PLANTING TOGETHER WITH PANASONIC

The Panasonic tree planting project supports planting of forest together with children in schools.

A lot of schools in many countries join the planting campaign. The planting activities are done as a part of environmental activities concerning the key role forests plays in the climate change debate in schools. Another important issue in their environmental education is learning about is questions about bio-diversity and bio-energy from forests. The goal is to make activities in 39 countries and

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total 600 000 trees will be planted!

Most of the LEAF participating countries joins the activities, also some Eco-school countries. However, to reach the premises of the sponsor a number of non FEE countries also are joining the activities. Most of these via ENO – Environmental online www.enoprogramme.org

The planting activities will go on in 2011, and we really like to see more FEE countries to join! Please contact the LEAF coordinator for more information.



NEWS FROM FEE SLOVAKIA: SUPPORT THE PROTECTION OF UNIQUE NATURE IN SLOVAKIA

Spirala (FEE Slovakia) has sent an article informing about the threat of a national park in Slovakia requesting support for the protection initiatives.

One from the most unique parts of Carpathians are the Tatra mountains with preserved large coniferous forests, alpine meadows, glacial relief, many endemic species of plants and animals and vital populations of large mammals (bear, wolf, endemic subspecies of chamois).

These values are reason which caused that first national park in Slovakia and also in Czechoslovakia was created here. But in the last years many changes in use of national park were proposed, which include building of new ski-resorts and intensive forest management.

Therefore environmental NGOs initiated many actions and now start international petition and they would like to ask all people to support protection of nature in heart of Europe at following link and spread it: <http://www.ekoforum.sk/peticia/stop-destruction-tatra-national-park/>. Thank you!



FEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009 AND OTHER PR MATERIAL

The FEE Annual Report 2009 has been produced and sent to all member organisations as according to the order feedback, and international partners have received the publication as well.

The FEE Secretariat and International Programme Coordinators have finalised the production of the FEE Annual Report 2009. The publication is, with some minor changes, made in the same

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format as in the previous years. The publication has been sent to all FEE member organisations and international partners.

At the FEE General Assembly 2010, the FEE Executive Board would like to invite for a discussion about the value and use of the FEE Annual Reports and other FEE publications in order to ensure that the publication suits all FEE stakeholders and partners in the best possible way.



FEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below find information about the events planned in FEE.

- YRE International Jury meeting, 25 May 2010, Paris, France
 - 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, 29 September 2010, Skype meeting
 - FEE Executive Board meeting, 16 October 2010, Corfu, Greece
 - Blue Flag national operator meeting, 22-23 October 2010, Zagreb, Croatia
 - Eco-Schools national operator meeting, 17-19 November 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland
 - FEE Executive Board meeting, 4-5 February 2011, Cyprus
 - 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
 - Blue Flag national operator meeting, October 2012, Wales
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