

Dear ASPnet community,  
Dear National Coordinators,  
Dear teachers, students and parents,



Warmest greetings for this first ASnet newsletter issue for 2022. I hope you all had a good start. This issue highlights the lively start that ASPnet has had since the beginning of the year.

We will feature some exciting activities, including the launch of the International Decade for Indigenous Languages and ASPnet's involvement, an inspiring World Cultural Heritage Youth Forum, as well as the UK ASPnet summit.

We also present a new project on arts education and remind you of the upcoming International Arts Education Week at the end of May.

We are also finally able to report on the Week of Sound competition, in which the first laureates were announced upon the creation of category for the ASPnet participation, and a musical relay in the spirit of Olympic Games held last autumn between Tokyo and Paris with dedicated participation of ASPnet schools in both cities in collaboration with the City of Paris.

Let me share the information again on our work on the renewal of the membership management processing and interactive platform which are both well underway. Upon completion, we want to reassure you that there will be a smooth application process for new members and through our new interactive platform we will facilitate international synergies among the network members. As we envision to have the pilot version of the new system installed this autumn, we would like to ask for your kind collaboration to hold new application requests unless there is an urgency. We also encourage you to update the ASPnet logos for your schools that were sent out mid-April. In addition, our new web site is in the works and will be up in the next few weeks. Lastly, we will issue the newsletter from now on a quarterly basis.

As always, I commend all of you for your engagement and our ongoing exchanges and will, of course, keep you up to date on any further news!



With very warm Paris spring wishes,

Stay safe. Stay CONNECTed!

[Julie Saito](#), *ASPnet International Coordinator*

## The International Decade for Indigenous Languages 2022-2032



*“Language is at the core of what it means to be human: to speak and to listen, to sign and to express, to read and to write, to share knowledge and to understand, to form one’s own identity and culture, and what it means to live in harmony with nature and each other.”*

[Global Action Plan for the International Decade for Indigenous Languages](#)

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2022-2032 as the [International Decade of the Indigenous Languages \(IDIL 2022-2032\)](#) and invited UNESCO to serve as the lead UN Agency for its organization, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other relevant agencies including The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The decade shall among others raise awareness of the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, and of their contribution to sustainable development, good governance, respect of human rights, as well as to the importance of cultural and biodiversity interculturality, intercultural dialogue and peace education in building open, inclusive and participatory societies. The primary target group for the decade are indigenous language learners (speakers and signers), including new learners and youth in general.

You can participate in the UNESCO [survey](#), watch [official video of the decade](#) or visit their website for the decade: <https://idil2022-2032.org/>

*“Language is at the core of what it means to be human: to speak and to listen, to sign and to express, to read and to write, to share knowledge and to understand, to form one’s own identity and culture, and what it means to live in harmony with nature and each other.”* [Global Action Plan for the International Decade for Indigenous Languages](#)

### Indigenous Languages and Learning at ASPnet

With the generous support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, ASPnet member schools will be engaged in diverse opportunities for exchange, awareness raising and transformative learning about the importance of indigenous languages, linguistic diversity and multilingualism for sustainable development, intercultural dialogue, human rights and peace education.

An established ASPnet Indigenous Advisory Committee has started their work end of March. An ASPnet specific survey will have been shared with the community and detailed information and activities on how schools can get engaged: For ASPnet National Coordinators: <https://forms.office.com/r/a5aNX4ZTCB>; For ASPnet member schools: <https://forms.office.com/r/UawNQRrDDT>

### Arts for Transformative Education at ASPnet

With the generous support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the ASPnet International Coordination Unit is working in collaboration with the [UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning Dr. Benjamin Bolden](#) and CCUNESCO on a [research on arts for transformative education](#).

### From ASPnet

#### Musical Relay Tokyo-Paris in the spirit of the Olympic Games



About 60 French and Japanese ASPnet students performed a Musical Relay from Tokyo to Paris « Relais musical Tokyo-Paris, Se tendre la main » last October to accompany the journey of the Olympic flame from Japan to France. In Japan Tama Junior High School of Tokyo, the Seiseki Kozakura Japanese Drum Club Team and in France “l’Ecole Jeannine Manuel” in Paris, the “College Gustave Courbet of Romainville” in Seine-Saint-Denis, as well as

the Regional Conservatory of Paris took part in this project, conceived through a partnership between the International ASPnet Coordination Unit and the City of Paris. A musical piece was composed specifically for the relay by the Japanese composer [Norika Baba](#). A link to the concert video will become available soon.



In the spirit of the Olympic Games and the cultural Olympics, the musical relay was a creative collaborative adventure across cultures and continents, reaching out to each other and sharing a joint sense of togetherness and connection, in the true spirit of ASPnet! You can watch the special message for the concert by the UNESCO's Assistant Director-General, Ms Stefania Giannini [here](#) (in French with Japanese subtitles):

*Dear students and teachers in Paris and Tokyo, dear representatives of the City of Paris,*

*It is a real pleasure to join you on the occasion of this musical relay between Tokyo and Paris. Today we are witnessing a real cultural Olympiad initiated by the City of Paris - a passing of the flame and above all of Olympic and Paralympic values. These values are those of excellence, respect and friendship. They are those of determination, equality and courage.*

*"Holding hands" - the title of this event - reflects this desire to meet, to discover. We need it more than ever as schools and cultural venues have been closed around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And what better way to renew sharing than through artistic expression, to create a dialogue between cultures, languages, countries and continents.*

*UNESCO's mandate is to build peace through culture, education and understanding between peoples, from an early age. Music education responds to the Olympic ideal that "learning involves the whole body, not just the mind". Music and art are the expression of our emotions and our feelings, and artistic education helps to awaken this creativity that lies dormant in each of us.*

*In addition, it is through musical education that we can become aware of our identity and our heritage, as well as the richness of cultural diversity. Music connects us to our common and shared humanity. The Olympic and Paralympic values are in line with UNESCO's mission in education.*

*We rightly advocate inclusive and equitable quality education for all - this is one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that we must achieve by 2030.*

*But this objective also includes a dimension that affects our lifestyles, our relationship to others and to the planet. It concerns education for sustainable development, global citizenship and the appreciation of cultural diversity. Your collaboration through this musical relay brings these values to life, through friendship and international understanding.*

*We hope that by the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024, other schools around the world will join in this intercultural and musical dialogue to promote our common values.*

*I sincerely congratulate all the students of our network of associated schools in Tokyo and Paris for this initiative. I wholeheartedly thank the Paris Conservatory for their welcome, in particular the director Xavier Delette, sponsor of the "Holding Hands" project, as well as the composer Noriko Baba, who was able to perfectly reflect the spirit and values that unite us. In a spirit of joyful and generous sharing, and to conclude in the musical language of my country, Italy, I wish everyone a musical relay "Allegro Vivace".*

## From the Ancient Greek Olympic Arena - 3<sup>rd</sup> World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium

Over 120 students and 45 teachers from 11 countries (Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Hellas, Italy, North Macedonia, Slovenia and U.S.A.), among them ASPnet National Coordinators, schools, teachers and students, participated in the [3<sup>rd</sup> World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium](#), organized by the Hellenic Cultural and Educational Club for UNESCO, which is supported by Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO under the auspices of International Olympic Academy, 6-10 April 2022, in Athens and Ancient Olympia, Greece.

The annual youth symposium aims to bring together students and teachers to raise cultural awareness, develop mutual respect and contribute to the creation of a new generation of world citizens united in diversity and willing to shape a sustainable future for all. ASPnet school delegations have been an important group of the participants in the symposium.



© UNESCO/Erik Eschweiler

The 2022 theme of “Awareness through education” inviting students and teachers to engage with the topic by participating into various activities before and during the Symposium and by collaborating with other delegations.

Julie Saito, International Coordinator of ASPnet, highlighted in her video message for the opening ceremony the importance of education for cultural diversity:

*“It has never been so important to cherish cultural diversity as a vector for peace, security and development for all. The symposium aims to foster this spirit by learning with and about cultural heritage. Through education, learners can find new ways to build commitment and strengthen action in favour of preserving our cultural and natural heritage, our tangible and intangible heritage, and our local and world heritage.”*

During the symposium at Ancient Olympia, Ms Vera Dilari, ASPnet National Coordinator in Greece, Ms Christina Nomikou, ASPnet School Director of 7<sup>th</sup> Primary School of St Dimitrios and member of the organizing committee, and Mr Erik Eschweiler, Associate Project Officer in UNESCO Unit for ASPnet, jointly organized a workshop for the participating teachers on Teaching and Learning with Living Heritage, building on the [successful UNESCO-EU pilot project with ASPnet schools in Europe](#).

*“Learning with living heritage is like meeting our roots, meeting each other. We can learn about other countries and cultures. For students with diverse backgrounds it is creating opportunities to express themselves and to belonging to a group”- Christina Nomikou*



© UNESCO/Erik Eschweiler - At the end of the workshop, teachers present their lesson plans for teaching and learning with living heritage.

In various interactive sessions, the students engaged in exploring and experiencing diverse forms of cultural heritage, e.g. learning to dance the Zorba's Dance and visiting the World Heritage Site of Ancient Olympia. Students from ASPnet school HAEF Psychiko College in Greece took the participants on a virtual tour to Delphi heritage site, students from ASPnet TVET school Epal Ymittou invited the audience to dance and dive into carnival traditions in Greece and Venezuela.

The Danish ASPnet students presented their cultural heritage of singing together and the tradition of the

Folk school song book. Inspired by their school's climate action and efforts to promote the SDGs, two ASPnet students from Niels Brock – The International Gymnasium in Copenhagen presented their start-up and app [SWOP](#), which aims to reinvent the fashion industry through local and social market places at schools where users can swap second-hand clothes with each other, saving carbon emissions and changing unsustainable consumption behaviors. During the 4 days, the participants engaged as global citizens in intercultural encounters and established friendships and school partnerships in mutual spirit. At the end of the symposium, the students and teachers signed a joint declaration on the importance and protection of World Cultural Heritage. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the symposium is scheduled for 26-30 April 2023.

*“The symposium promotes intercultural learning and cultivates global citizenship. After this long period of COVID-19 and disruptions, teachers and students have the opportunity to meet again, to have the joy of knowing each other, to feel alive with all senses in this dynamic and inspiring surrounding of Ancient Olympia. It is a great opportunity to give more visibility to our network and UNESCO' work.” Ms Vera Dilari, ASPnet National Coordinator in Greece*



## ASPnet participates in the Week of Sound



©UNESCO/Marijana Bogojevic  
Mr. Wiktor Malczyński, laureate of the Grand Prize,  
with Ms Julie Saito, ASPnet International  
Coordinator at the Prize giving ceremony.

Learning in and through the arts has increasingly been recognized as an important tool to promote UNESCO's values, such as human rights, gender equality, respect for diversity and international solidarity. Records show that arts education takes a prominent role in ASPnet member schools around the world to empower students to reflect on topics related to SDG 4, in particular target 4.7. ASPnet's engagement in the Competition of Week of Sound is contributing to the network's priorities and fields of action.

Following several information sessions for National Coordinators 171 videos from 20 countries were received for the annual competition. Many of them reflect on global and local issues of importance for the participating students, e.g. climate change, biodiversity, discrimination, bullying, health

and friendship. 21 videos were submitted for the finals and the winners were announced at the award ceremony at UNESCO headquarters on 21 January. See and watch the list of winners and their video in [English](#) and [French](#), as well as the [award ceremony](#).

## Upcoming - Calls for participation

### Upcoming: last week of May, UNESCO is celebrating International Arts Education Week!

*Art, in all its diversity, is an essential component of a comprehensive education for the full development of the individual.*

Today, the skills, values and behaviours promoted by arts education are more paramount than ever. These competencies - creativity, collaboration, and imaginative problem solving - develop resiliency, nurture appreciation of cultural diversity and freedom of expressions, and cultivate innovation and critical

*This awareness of art can be acquired from an early age and maintained throughout life.*

thinking skills. As a vector of dialogue in the loftiest sense, art speeds up social inclusion and tolerance in our multicultural, connected societies. Arts education is a key to training generations capable of reinventing the world that they have inherited. It supports the vitality of cultural identities by emphasizing their links with other cultures, thus contributing to the construction of a shared heritage. It helps to form tolerant and dynamic citizens for our globalizing world. More information on this year's celebrations soon at <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/artseducationweek>

## Call for applications - 2022 edition of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes



*Calling all champions of literacy #education around the world!*  
*This is your chance to become a @UNESCO International #Literacy Prizes laureate!*  
*Deadline is 20 June 2022. This year's theme is Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces*  
*#LiteracyDay Find out more:*  
<https://bit.ly/3Li3UQc>

## Connecting for Peace - Virtual Conference to be organized by ASPnet UK



There will be the first UNESCO ASPnet UK conference on **June 17, 2022** at 10:30 – 17:00 CEST, which aims to connect educators from across the world to collaborate in shaping a viable and peaceful world for future generations. The event includes speakers from across the world, including UNESCO ASPnet Japan, UNESCO UK Commission London and UNESCO Paris.

You will have a choice of interactive workshops and attend the launch of the inspiring Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative. You can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/291676772077>

## Celebrating Diversity - 2023 Global Pluralism Award

The [Global Centre for Pluralism](#) calls for submissions to the **2023 Global Pluralism Award** from individuals and organizations that champion respect for diversity through achievements in innovative and high-impact ways to building societies and communities where diversity is respected and valued. Individuals, private sector actors, academics, civil society and government bodies from around the world are all eligible for the Award. Nominations and applications can be made online on the [Award website](#) until **May 31, 2022**. Three Award winners will be selected by an independent, international jury of experts. Each recipient will receive a prize of CAD \$50,000 to further their work in support of pluralism. The Award will be presented in the Fall of 2023.

## Just happened – International Jazz Day (30 April)



Herbie Hancock performs with student keyboardist  
© Steve Mundinger for Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz

**International Jazz Day was celebrated on 30 April 2022.** It is recognized by the United Nations General Assembly to highlight the role of jazz in encouraging dialogue, combating discrimination and promoting human dignity. Jazz music, with its rich history and values, is a unique tool for building bridges across generations, cultures, communities and borders. Teachers and schools play an important role in ensuring that the inspirational messages of International Jazz Day reach the next generation. UNESCO's official partner in the organization and promotion of International Jazz Day is the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz. They provide additional resources, including [videos](#) and [free educational materials on their jazzday.com website](#).

Find additional information on the [UNESCO International Jazz Day website](#) and the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz

International Jazz Day [website](#) .

## Art Contribution from ASPnet Member



© Poland National Commission

Awards for children aged 3-6 made for the competition "Ecological toy for a kid" at Kindergarten No. 422 in Warsaw, ASPnet in Poland.

We encourage you to send us your messages of solidarity and other contributions, in words, pictures, videos and art works in order to build and strengthen our network, encourage and take care of each other.

We would also like to hear from you about your experiences and innovative ways to learn, out of schools and within your families.

Please send your contributions to [aspnetinaction@unesco.org](mailto:aspnetinaction@unesco.org). Please attach the [consent form](#).

The ASPnet Team

Julie Saito, Melanie Seto, Katja Anger, Helene Darne, Erik Eschweiler, Apolonia Torres, Annika Roes,  
Get connected: <https://aspnet.unesco.org>

Contact us: [aspnetinaction@unesco.org](mailto:aspnetinaction@unesco.org)