



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations

To all Permanent Delegates and
Observers to UNESCO
and National Commissions for
UNESCO

18 July 2019

Ref.: SC/EES/EGR/19/6593

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Director-General, I am pleased to inform you that the Unit for UNESCO's Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) together with the Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction of UNESCO are organizing a global Arts Contest, "My School Protects Me". This Arts Contest is placed in the specific context of the 2019's global celebrations of Target D of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which relates to critical infrastructure, notably learning facilities. It is also aligned with the Education 2030 agenda, notably Sustainable Development Goal 4 and Target 4.a., which calls for providing "safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all".

Each year, 175 million children are likely to be affected by natural hazard related disasters alone. Damage to the infrastructure of learning facilities during hazardous events is one of the main reasons for interruption of a child's education. With this Arts Contest, UNESCO aims to encourage all users of learning facilities to think about the importance of protecting students and ensuring that they can pursue their education in a safe learning environment. The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) will, therefore, be mobilized to encourage schools to reflect the vision of their students to promote the importance of safe learning facilities, allowing them to pursue their education in a safe environment.

As part of its mandate, UNESCO is actively engaged in empowering schools and their communities to identify the risks they are exposed to, map their vulnerabilities and capacities, and enhance school safety. In this framework, UNESCO is currently chairing the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, and promotes a multi-hazard school safety assessment methodology named VISUS (Visual Inspection for defining Safety Upgrading Strategies). The Arts Contest will consequently contribute to reinforce UNESCO's work in school safety in the context of disaster risk reduction.

.../...

You will find the letter and submission details sent to the Country Coordinators of the ASPnet, in English, French and Spanish, attached to this letter. We remain at your disposal, should you have any questions concerning this initiative (Ms Sabine Detzel: s.detzel@unesco.org; Mr Soichiro Yasukawa: s.yasukawa@unesco.org; Ms Lucille Anglès: l.angles@unesco.org).

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Matoko', written in a cursive style.

Firmin Edouard Matoko



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To all ASPnet National Coordinators

Ref: SC/EES/EGR/19/004036

1 June 2019

Subject: UNESCO Associated Schools Network Art Contest on School Safety

Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to invite members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in your respective countries to take part in the global contest "*My School Protects Me*", organized by UNESCO. The contest is placed in the specific context of this year's global celebrations of Target D of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which relates to critical infrastructure, notably learning facilities. It is also aligned with the Education 2030 agenda, notably Sustainable Development Goal 4 and Target 4.a which calls for providing "safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all". The contest aims to generate awareness and a culture of resilience within children's and young people's minds.

ASPnet schools will be mobilized to encourage teachers and students to reflect about the role that school infrastructure plays in protecting its users from natural hazards and related extreme events.

"My School Protects Me" invites students to:

1. Reflect on how safe they feel in their school;
2. Stimulate critical thinking on their right to receive an education in a safe environment;
3. Stimulate creative expressions through various art forms.

With this Arts Contest, UNESCO aims to encourage all users of learning facilities to think about the importance of protecting students and ensuring that they can pursue their education in a safe learning environment. The voice and perspective of children and young people on their relation with their own school will be an invaluable contribution to discussions and efforts at local, national and international levels for making schools safer and more resilient.

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For more information on the contest's regulations and submission details, please see Annex I.

We count on your support in mobilizing the ASPnet members in your countries and look forward to seeing them engaging with this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Stefania Giannini
Assistant Director-General for
Education



Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle
Assistant Director-General for
Natural Sciences

c.c. Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO

ANNEX I

Description

In line with the Target D of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Goal 4.a of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, a global contest on the topic “My School Protects Me” will be launched through the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), a global network of 11,700 educational institutions in 184 countries. Established in 1953, ASPnet promotes the ideals and values enshrined in the Constitution of UNESCO, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including fundamental rights and human dignity, gender equality, social progress, freedom, justice and democracy, respect for diversity and international solidarity..

Disasters have a major impact on children, youth and education systems. Studies of disaster trends and the likely consequences of climate change suggest that each year 175 million students are likely to be affected by natural hazard related disasters alone. For instance, over 2,700 schools were severely damaged or destroyed in the earthquake- and tsunami-hit Sulawesi in September 2018, which affected more than 600,000 people, including at least 180,000 children. While schools re-opened 12 days after the disaster in parts of Sulawesi, thousands of children have been returning to find some of their classrooms in rubble, with tables and chairs broken and learning materials strewn across the ground.

Objective

The main objective of the contest is to:

1. Sensitize and raise awareness on issues linked to safety and resilience of learning facilities, whose infrastructure may be exposed not only to damage due to ordinary use, but also to the impact of natural hazards and climate change.
2. Stimulate critical thinking on the existing relation between school infrastructure, quality education and disaster risk reduction;
3. Make a contribution to public debates about school safety in order to raise the level of attention and investments for resilient schools.

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) will be mobilized to encourage schools to reflect the vision and spontaneous suggestions of their students to promote the importance of safe learning facilities, allowing them to pursue their education in a safe environment.

The contest is open to all ASPnet members.

Languages

All six official UNESCO languages. The ASPnet National Coordinators and the National Commissions for UNESCO will be requested to make the first selection and, if needed, translate (into one of the six languages) the contributions from the schools.

Age groups and awards

The contest is open to pre-schools, primary, secondary, and vocational and teacher training institutions. Participating institutions are invited to submit works of art resulting of the **collective efforts of at least five (5) students**. Each category will be awarded a first, a second and third prizes (twelve prizes in total), as follows:

1. **Pre-schools:** drawings, paintings or collage (1 or 2 drawings per school on a A3 size paper – 29,7 cm x 42 cm –) to be sent by ordinary mail to the ASPnet National Coordinator;
2. **Primary schools:** drawings, paintings or collage (1 or 2 drawings per school on a A3 size paper – 29,7 cm x 42 cm –) to be sent by ordinary mail to the ASPnet National Coordinator;
3. **Secondary schools:** drawings, paintings or collage (1 or 2 drawings per school on a A3 size paper – 29,7 cm x 42 cm –) to be sent by ordinary mail, or video clips (3 min maximum) to be sent by email, to the ASPnet National Coordinator;
4. **Vocational and teacher training institutions:** drawings, paintings or collage (1 or 2 drawings per school on a A3 size paper – 29,7 cm x 42 cm –) to be sent by ordinary mail, or video clips (3 min maximum) to be sent by email, to the ASPnet National Coordinator;

Decisions

The Jury will be composed by staff members of UNESCO, Honorary and Goodwill Ambassadors and other personalities. Entries will be judged on the basis of originality, creative imagination, artistic quality, adherence to the topic and rules established for the contest. All decisions of the judges are final.

Visibility

The winning contributions will be celebrated at the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019, and will become the voice and image of the online campaign to sensitize to the importance of safe school facilities. The winning contributions will be put online on a dedicated UNESCO portal, and feature an interview and a photo of the selected schools. The contributions may be used in exhibitions, publications or as promotional support material for the actions of UNESCO on school safety efforts. A representative from the first prize winning school will be invited to a UNESCO event related to Safe Schools in 2020.

Submission Modalities

Submission should be result of student **group work** only. Individual artwork will not be accepted.

Each contribution should be accompanied by:

1. The title of the artwork
2. A short text explaining the approach/classroom process/production of the work
3. Name, city and country of the ASPnet school
4. List of students' names and ages

Fees

No entry fees are required to participate in the contest.

Timeline

The contest will be announced on 14 June 2019. Contributions shall be submitted by schools to their ASPnet National Coordinators before or on 13th September 2019. The National Coordinators will make a selection and send a maximum of one (1) artwork **per category** to UNESCO, not later than **23th September 2019**.

To the Attention of:

Mr. Soichiro Yasukawa
Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience
Natural Sciences Sector
UNESCO
E-mail address eesegr@unesco.org

7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP, France

Please indicate “**ASPnet Contest**” on the envelope.

An exhibition of the winning submissions will take place on the occasion of the celebrations of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 at the premises of UNESCO in Paris, France. A virtual gallery will be established on the UNESCO ASPnet Website.