

P R E S S   R E L A S E

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## **The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (Brussels and Berlin) join forces with the European Union Academic Programme Hong Kong in running a pilot Hong Kong-EU School e-Learning Project**

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (Brussels and Berlin) announce its cooperation with the European Union Academic Programme Hong Kong (EUAP), and the European Studies Programme of the Hong Kong Baptist University, in jointly organising the first collaborative HK-EU schools e-learning project on the topic of “Green living and sustainability in the Community”. This comes at a very suitable time coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Brussels. This project is also supported by The Institute of English Studies, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany.

This innovative pilot e-project, which will run for 8 weeks beginning late February or early March, targets 14-18 year-old school students from Hong Kong and various cities in EU countries. The project aims for a co-construction of knowledge between schools, to facilitate direct exchanges of ideas on green topics amongst students and to improve their English through communication.

This project will run on an online learning platform “Blackboard”, and will have three phases: 1) “Gathering Knowledge: Learning about sustainability”, 2) “Research Tasks: How green is my community?”, and 3) “Group Community Project: Towards sustainable living in the community”. During the series of individual and group research tasks, students will explore the programme with basic guidance and work at their own pace, thereby developing self-regulated and self-directed learning skills. It will also allow them to boost their all-rounded understanding, higher order thinking, communication skills and heightened awareness for sustainability across communities in HK and Europe, through this enriching intercultural experience.

The European Union Academic Programme (EUAP) is a consortium of four universities in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Baptist University, The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University), co-financed by the European Union. It is designed to strengthen EU-Hong Kong relations through academic work and enhance the understanding of the EU.



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Towards the end of the project, a Group Community Project will be held, consisting of a Blog and Multimedia Presentation Competition. The most successful project team from one school in the EU (maximum 2 students + 1 teacher) will win a prize which includes flying to Hong Kong for a one-week stay in May or June 2015. This prize will cover airline tickets and accommodation costs, and the team will have an opportunity to visit green facilities in Hong Kong and their partner school during this time.

The European Union Academic Programme (EUAP) recognises the need to broaden today's young generation in terms of their international cultural scope, with Outreach being one of the core areas it focusses on. Through this e-project, it aims to raise the youth's awareness towards green living and sustainability by stimulating them through interaction and intercultural exchanges. It is also an excellent opportunity for these young people to gain knowledge and evaluate the significance of green issues by familiarising themselves with Hong Kong and European initiatives, while there will also be an opportunity for schools to establish longer-term partnerships in future.

The e-learning project is now open for registration for schools in Europe. The registration deadline is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Please send an email to [euap\\_outreach@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:euap_outreach@hkbu.edu.hk), or visit <http://euap.hkbu.edu.hk/youngeurope/?p=48952> if you would like to acquire more information.

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