



Supporting and promoting science education internationally

The ICASE Newsletter

April 2008

This is the newsletter of the International Council of Associations for Science Education.

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1. What is ICASE and what are its objectives?

ICASE is an umbrella organisation forming a communication network for national and regional science teacher associations, science societies, science institutes and others interested in science education or its sub-branches of biology education, chemistry education, earth science (geography) education, physics education

The ICASE constitution states that the objectives of ICASE are to:

1. *To extend and enhance the quality of formal and non-formal science and technology education for all, with particular reference to the children and youth of the world.*
2. *To provide and support activities and opportunities that will enhance formal and non-formal science and technology education throughout the world.*
3. *To assist and support all members and other organisations throughout the world which are involved in formal and non-formal science and technology education.*
4. *To establish and maintain an international communication network for member organisations and their members involved in formal and non-formal science and technology education.*
5. *To encourage and support the establishment and development of professional science and technology organisations, especially teacher organisations in all countries.*

Information about organisations joining ICASE can be obtained from the Secretary, Dr Miia Rannikmaa (miia@ut.ee) (for individual involvement see section 4)

2. Science Activities

For a number of years ICASE produced a pre-secondary newsletter which often contained one page science activities. The newsletter has been disbanded as a publication, but the ideas, strongly supporting inquiry teaching, are still valid.

It is planned to reproduce some of these activities in this newsletter. The wish is to stimulate teachers to take ownership of the idea and use it in their teaching. And then, *and this is the important part*, to let ICASE know how they used the activity.

These activities are labelled STEP activities to support the idea of students taking steps into science at an early age. The first activity uses simply a comb and paper. Give it a go !

STEP Activity Comb and Paper Sounds

Challenge How can you make sounds using a comb and paper ?

What you need:

- Plastic comb
- Clean paper

What to do

Rub your fingers over the teeth of the comb.

What kind of sounds can you make ?

This is one way to make sounds using a comb.

Let's try another way.

Fold paper over the teeth of the comb.

You have made a musical instrument.

Play it by holding the paper and comb between your lips as shown below and blow air past the comb as you hum.

What do you hear?

What do you feel as you play the instrument?

Why does it work?



More to do!

How can you make the sound higher or lower ?

What happens if you suck rather than blow air past the paper and comb?

What happens to the sound if you use different types of paper ?

What happens to the sound if you use combs with different size teeth?

3. News from Members – SLASME

SLASME - the Sri Lankan Association for Science and Mathematics Education

The 24th annual general meeting of SLASME will be held on 2 and 3 May, 2008 at Sarvodaya Moratuwa. There will be lectures and presentations of science investigatory projects by those interested, including secondary school students.

On 12th of December, 1984 the Sri Lanka Association for Science and Mathematics Education [SLASME] was inaugurated at the Chemistry Lecture theatre of the University of Colombo. This occurred under the auspices of the Natural Resources Energy and Science Authority [NAREESA] of Sri Lanka. Dr R P Jayewardene the Director General of NARESA was the first president. Amongst others elected were Prof Valentine Basnayake [Chairman] and Mr Asoka Weerasinghe [Secretary]. The membership of the association was open to anyone interested in science education both at secondary school and also at tertiary science educational organisations, like universities.

The immediate past president of the association was the Late Prof V. K. Samaranyake and the present President is Mr Sterling Perera, a Former Commissioner of Examination and a renowned educationist. The Chairman is Mr Asoka Weerasinghe who is presently the Principal of Lyceum international school, Nugegoda and the treasurer is Mr D A Perera, former Director of the National Institute of Education, NIE. The joint Secretaries are Ms Malini Ganewatte and Ms Indrani Kodagoda. Next year SLAME will celebrate the silver jubilee of the association.

The activities of the association are directed toward the advancement and improvement of science and mathematics education in Sri Lanka and one of the important activities of the association is to encourage all those who are interested in science education to be involved in investigatory project work. The annual meeting will be devoted to presentations made by those who have done science investigations.

SLASME is a member of the International Council for Science Education [ICASE]. This organisation has been deeply committed to the improvement of science education worldwide since its inception in 1973. ICASE has a membership from more than 40 countries.

Any one who wishes to obtain membership and also wishes to take part in the annual sessions are kindly requested to contact the Chairman of the Association, Mr Asoka Weerasinghe at No. 4 Sylvan Lane, Panadura. His email address is <acha268@yahoo.com>. He can also be contacted on 0777 650 155 .

4. Introducing the ICASE Journal

The official ICASE journal is Science Education International (ISSN 1450-104X). This quarterly journal began in 1990 and is now into its 19th volume. The journal provides a means for associations, institutions, centres, foundations, companies and individuals concerned with science education to share perspectives, concerns, ideas and information that will foster cooperative efforts to improve science education and which will serve as a chronicle of the advancement of science education throughout the world.

The following guidelines exist for those wishing to submit an article to the journal

- Articles are only accept in English
- Feature articles are normally solicited by invitation
- Articles can relate to the following features – science and technology education; teaching materials and strategies; research on curriculum, teaching and learning; science teacher education; assessment and evaluation trends; non-formal and informal science education; research in brief (300-400 word summary); profile of prominent science educators (400-600 words); editorial.
- All material should be submitted electronically
- Article should be restricted to 3000-10000 words, including references
- Articles should be double spaced,, A4 size
- An abstract of 250-300 words plus up to 3 key words
- Diagrams and graphs should be provided as finished black and white line artwork (electronic image .gif or .jpg formats)
- All articles are reviewed by 2-3 international referees
- Authors who are not SEI subscribers or from an ICASE institutional member organisation are required to pay a minimum fee of 30 Euros in order to publish a paper in the journal.

The current journal editor is Dr Nicos Valanides e-mail seiicase@ucy.ac.cy or nichri@ucy.ac.cy Contact him for further information on submitting articles.

The journal is sent to all ICASE member organisations by post. Reasons why your organisation is not receiving the journal could be – name and/or address of recipient incorrect ; organisation is not a recognised ICASE member; a request has been received not to receive the journal. If your organisation is not receiving the journal, please contact the ICASE President (jack@ut.ee) so that the status of your organisation can be checked and the ICASE database amended.

Back issues of the journal are also available electronically via the journal website (www.ucy.ac.cy/~seiicase/sei) by the use of a password. Please contact the journal editor should you wish to make use of this service.

The journal is also open to individual and library subscribers. The current annual subscription rate for 4 issues is 50 US\$ (35 Euros) for individuals and 100US\$ (70

Euros) for libraries. Credit card payment is possible using Visa or Mastercard by submitted the appropriate data to the journal editor.

The following is a list of articles appearing in the December 2007 issues of the journal

- Implementing “Science across the World” in a Resource-Based Learning Activity regarding Sustainable Development Issues
- An accurate Picture of What is Currently happening in Turkish Science Classrooms
- The Development of Movement Synthesis Ability Through the teaching of Creative Movement and Improvisation
- Examining Prospective Science Teacher’s Satisfaction with Their Department
- Grade 1 to 5 Thai Students’ Existing Ideas about Energy
- Safety in the Hood !

An inspection copy is available from the journal editor.

5. Calendar of Events

This section draws attention to events that may be of interest to science educators/teachers. ICASE is very pleased to include all events organised by its member organisation. Please send details to the ICASE President (jack@ut.ee)

SLASME (Sri Lanka) will hold its 24th annual general meeting, 2nd and 3rd May 2008, at Sarvodaya Moratuwa. There will be lectures and presentations of science investigatory projects by those interested, including secondary school students.

CONASTA 57 2008 Conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association 6-9th July 2008 at Griffin University, Queensland.

The program continues to evolve in exciting new ways! New featured speakers include Dr Alex Cook from the Queensland Museum talking about Queensland dinosaurs and Dr Dion Weatherly a computational seismologist from the University of Queensland, a talking on cutting edge modeling for earthquakes and tsunamis. We now have a series of ‘conferences within a conference’ to provide substantial opportunities for teacher professional development. Currently, Monday will be a Primary Science Day, Tuesday will include the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Chemistry Interface and an afternoon program on ‘New approaches to secondary science’. Wednesday’s program will showcase the ‘Scientists in Schools’ program. The laboratory technicians have a two-day program on Monday and Tuesday. Excursions will include tours of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Griffith University research facilities, Carlton United Brewery, the desalination plant at Tugun and Gold Coast schools with cutting-edge facilities. Registration is now open. Click [here](#) to register or visit <http://www.astmanagement.com.au/conasta57/>

20th ICCE 3-8 August 2008, Mauritius .20th International Conference on Chemical Education. Theme: Chemistry in the ICT Age. Venue: Le Meridien Hotel. In conjunction with a satellite conference 11-12 August 2008, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Website [http:// www.uom.ac.mu/20icce.htm](http://www.uom.ac.mu/20icce.htm)

XIII IOSTE Symposium 21-26 September 2008 Izmir, Turkey

Symposium theme "The use of science and technology education for peace and sustainable development" For further information consult

<http://www.ioste2008.org>, <http://www.ioste13.org> or
<http://web.deu.edu.tr/ioste13/index/index.php>

**The 22nd Biennial Conference of the Asian Association for Biology Education
November 21-24, 2008 Osaka, Japan**

This will be held at the **ANA Gate Tower Hotel, Osaka, Japan**, under the joint sponsorship of AABE and SBSEJ, the Society of Biological Sciences Education of Japan. The theme for this biennial conference is "The Role of Biology Education in Society Today." And sub-themes - Sub-theme 1. Biology Education for Realizing the Preciousness of Life; Sub-theme 2. Biology Education in "The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)"

Country reports will be included as usual. General papers on biology education are also accepted. The Organizing Committee of the AABE 22 strongly encourages participants to send in their Registration Form by **July 31, 2008**. The Registration Form is attached to this announcement. Please send completed Registration Form by e-mail, fax or post to:

Dr. Nobuyasu Katayama, The Director of the AABE 22, Department of Environmental Sciences, Tokyo Gakugei University, Koganei, Tokyo 184-8501, Japan. E-mail: katayama@u-gakugei.ac.jp, Facsimile: +81-334710354

Registration fee: **JPY 13,000** for an ordinary attendant and **JPY 9,000** for a student. For accompanying persons, the registration fee is **JPY 9,000** which covers above-mentioned (3), (4) and (5).

The deadline to apply for oral and poster presentations is **July 31, 2008**. The application must include an abstract of the paper. Due to time constraints, only a limited number of papers will be selected for oral presentation by the Organizing Committee of the AABE22.

ICASE African Regional Symposium 24-28 May 2009 , Abuja, Nigeria

The theme of the conference - Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Development in Africa through Science and Technology Education. Venue: Abuja Sheraton Hotel and Towers Conference Conveners: Dr. Ben B. Akpan, ICASE African Representative and Executive Director, Science Teachers Association of Nigeria Email: ben.akpan@stan.org.ng and Professor Peter Okebukola, Faculty of Education, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria. Email: peter@okebukola.com or visit the website <http://www.stan.org.ng/ICASE-2009>

ICASE June 2010 Tartu, Estonia 3rd World Science and Technology Education

Conference. Contact person: Miia Rannikmae (miia@ut.ee). At this time the conference organiser is initiating the planning stage and all member organisations are very much invited to put forward ideas for inclusion in the conference. (also see the ICASE website www.icaseonline.net)

6. ICASE Executive Committee 2008-2011

Based on the ICASE constitution, the ICASE Management committee as well as Regional Representatives are elected by member organisations. These elected members, in turn, nominate chairs of relevant standing committees. Together these persons form the ICASE Executive Committee and are the persons who make decisions on behalf of the ICASE Governing Body. The ICASE Governing Body is the **ICASE member organisations**.

The Executive Committee (the decision making body working for the Governing Body)

President

Jack Holbrook*

E-mail jack@ut.ee

(Member Organisation; Association for Science Education (ASE), UK)

Past President

Dr Janchai Yingprayoon

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(Member Organisation; Science Society of Thailand- Science Teachers Section)

Secretary

Dr Miia Rannikmae

E-mail miia@ut.ee

(Member Organisation; Estonian Association of Chemistry Teachers (EACT))

Treasurer

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E-mail Adrian.fenticase@yahoo.co.uk

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Dr Ben Akpan

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(Member Organisation – Albert Einstein Club, Mar del Plata, Argentina)

Regional Representative for North America

Dr Norman Lederman

E-mail: ledermann@iit.edu

(Member Organisation - Council of Elementary Science International (CESI))

Chairs of Standing Committees

Pre-secondary and informal education

Dr. Lynda Paznokas

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Safety in Science Education

Dr Ken Roy

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