

## **“Primary Connections” Collaboration with Asia Seminar**

Sydney, Australia | 18 – 20 or 25 – 27 MARCH 2013

The Australian Academy of Science in partnership with the IAP and AASSA (formerly FASAS and ASSA) is organising in Sydney, Australia from 18 to 20 or 25 to 27 March 2013 (dates to be confirmed), an international seminar on its award winning program for primary schools, ‘Primary Connections: Linking science with literacy’. The three day seminar is intended for trainers and decision-makers of educational systems from Asia and beyond wishing to get acquainted with the program.

‘Primary Connections: Linking science with literacy’ is an innovative approach to teaching and learning which aims to enhance primary school teachers’ confidence and competence for teaching science.

A partnership between the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Primary Connections focuses on developing students’ knowledge, skills, understanding and capacities in both science and literacy.

Current research highlights that successful science education requires teachers to be supported not only with curriculum resources but also with professional learning to boost their pedagogical content knowledge in the teaching of science and literacy.

The Primary Connections program provides both components, which have undergone substantial trialling and support the implementation of the Australian national curriculum.

The professional learning program gives teachers the tools to understand the Primary Connections approach, its philosophy and goals. Through interactive workshops, participants develop their pedagogical content knowledge. Teachers also explore how to effectively use, adapt and extend curriculum units to suit their students' needs, or write their own units using a unit planner.

Some travel and accommodation scholarships are available for participants from developing countries.

### **General objectives are to:**

- share and transfer the expertise gathered by Primary Connections to education systems and scientific partners abroad
- train foreign participants in inquiry-based science education and its implementation
- make possible an intercultural adaptation of the approach and content proposed by Primary Connections, according to the context of each country
- foster international cooperation

### **Dates and place:**

From 18 to 20 or 25 to 27 March 2013 within 15km of the centre of the city of Sydney, Australia.

**Contents:**

- History and principals of Primary Connections and inquiry-based science education
- The inquiry-based approach in primary school, in the middle school: methods, steps, relevance
- Strategies for innovation in education practices: education resources, teacher training and support, cross-disciplinary approach
- Strategies for generalisation into educational systems: curriculum reforms, assessment of project and practice, use of ICT for resources sharing and support

Trainers: Primary Connections consultants, academics, researchers and associated experts.

**Participants:**

The seminar will host approximately thirty participants from various countries.

*Profile of the participants:* educational system officers, school leaders and lead teachers of primary science, national program for science education leaders, academics in charge of teachers' training, and other stakeholders in primary or elementary science education.

**Criteria for application:**

- During the review of the application, particular attention will be paid to the impact that participants could have on a national initiative in science education in their own country (public policy, teacher training institutions, pilot programs). Applications presented by a lead institution in this area are encouraged.
- Double application (2 persons from one country) are encouraged, if the profile of the participants is complementary and guarantees a better dissemination of information within their national system
- The participants will have to be proficient in the English language

**Costs:**

Costs of the training are entirely covered by Primary Connections during the whole duration of the seminar. Costs of meals (morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and conference dinner) during the training days are covered for all participants. Please note that costs associated with breakfast and dinner (other than the conference dinner) will be the responsibility of participants if they are not selected for a travel scholarship.

The international travel expenses, visa fees and accommodation are chargeable to the participant. Some travel scholarships to cover travel and meals will be available. These scholarships will need to be applied for and selection will be based on criteria including country of origin and the organisation the participant represents.

**Calendar:**

- Deadline for notification of interest to attend: 30 November 2012
- Deadline for application: 15 December 2012
- Selection of the participants: 15 January 2013

**Registration of interest:**

Email: [pc@science.org.au](mailto:pc@science.org.au)