A sustainable school incorporates the values of economic viability, social justice and ecological preservation in all stages of the planning, design, construction and maintenance.

This international conference addresses the challenges in achieving sustainable school buildings from their initial planning through to their use. In striving to create sustainable school facilities, policymakers, educators and facility planners are charged with the responsibility to not only ensure that schools are safe, healthy and accessible, but also that they are ‘green’. The challenge in guaranteeing sustainability in schools rests in co-ordinating conflicting governmental policies, design philosophies and dynamic pedagogies. Facilitating progress in the provision of sustainable schools necessitates a collective response and enacting more integrated and coherent reforms. The focus of this conference will be on pre-primary, primary and secondary schools.

The conference will explore the obstacles to co-ordinating legislation, budgets and other policy challenges, and present and share knowledge on good practices and innovative facilities. It will use a range of formats: speaker presentations, poster exhibitions, round-table discussions and school visits.

There will be a two day programme beginning Thursday, 1st October 2009.

- Day 1: Speaker presentations addressing the role of sustainability in school infrastructure by identifying commonalities, introducing international case studies and presenting examples of relevant policies; and a poster exhibition showcasing examples of sustainable development in the school.

- Day 2: School visits in and around Ljubljana and a round-table session to discuss the practical issues surrounding sustainable design and review strategies and policy approaches for adopting sustainable architecture in schools.
The conference will explore three aspects of delivering sustainable school buildings:

1. The role of spaces and places in school premises in relation to the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

2. Demonstrate examples of good practice in planning, design, construction and maintenance.

3. Identify challenges and obstacles and subsequent solutions for integrating sustainable development principles into the planning, design, construction and maintenance of school premises.

The conference will take advantage of the unique experiences other countries have to offer in shaping and solving the issues arising in succeeding in sustainable architecture for schools. Participants will have the opportunity to work together to examine how policies and strategies can be formulated and implemented to establish sustainable school buildings and operation.

A poster exhibition will be on display throughout the conference and will include a selected number of examples to demonstrate various aspects of the conference themes related to sustainable school buildings.

Initially you are invited to register your interest by submitting proposals for projects that you would like to be considered for the exhibition. If selected, you will be asked to provide text, images and drawings from which the exhibition designer will create the exhibits. If you would like to propose any projects for the exhibition please visit the conference website: http://www.mss.gov.si/en/oecd_conference/

The poster exhibition will be formally opened at the end of the first day of the conference and will be followed by a cocktail reception.

Key dates:
- 1 July 2009 – Submission of proposals
- 1 August 2009 – Submission of photographs and architectural plans for exhibits

The conference will take place in the Ljubljana Castle in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Address: Ljubljana Castle, Grajska planota 1, 1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA

More information about the conference venue available at the following website:

For more information on the city and the venue location, please visit:

Participation is open to those in OECD and non-OECD member countries who have a professional interest in the themes of the seminar, and may include members of authorities responsible for education at national, regional or local levels, as well as architects and design professionals engaged in the provision of school facilities, advisors of education policy and researchers.

The working language for the meeting is English and Slovene (with interpretation available).
Registration

This is the first conference to be held by the Centre for Effective Learning Environments, it is open to all members and non-members and no conference fee will be administered.

You are encouraged to register early. To register, please visit the conference website: http://www.mss.gov.si/en/oecd_conference/ and www.oecd.org/edu/facilities/sustainableschools or complete the enclosed registration form and send it to Mitja Sardoc: mitja.sardoc@pei.si.

Conference documentation

Conference programme, background documents, registration information and poster submission forms will be available on the conference website: http://www.mss.gov.si/en/oecd_conference/

Accommodation

Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, local organizers have made a number of reservations at hotels in the city centre of Ljubljana, and for those registering before August 15, there are special prices available. For further information on the list of recommended hotels offering the special rates please visit the conference website: http://www.mss.gov.si/en/oecd_conference/


Also, an on-line hotel reservation service available on: http://www.ljubljana.si/en/tourism/accommodation/hrs/

CONTACT DETAILS

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Conference content

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