

Position Paper on ICASE World Conference on Science and Technology Education

Rationale

The ICASE World Conference on Science and Technology Education (STE) is a high profile, high quality, premier event for the Association to further its strategic plan and teacher professional development worldwide. It provides opportunities for practitioners, from national and regional science teacher associations, and other interested groups to share experiences, skills and knowledge within a networked community, in a collegial atmosphere. The conference also enables delegates to assist ICASE to identify the structures and initiatives to be undertaken to meet its future goals.

Operation and Procedures

The Conference will occur every three years and be associated with the ICASE General Assembly and elections of ICASE officials. The conference is expected to act as a springboard for enhancing collaboration and innovative methodologies so that ICASE can play its leadership role in delivering excellence in school science education globally. The conference will provide opportunities to assist the development of, and to sustain member organisations and feed future ICASE activities, particularly in partnership with member organisations.

A particular focus of the conference will be the Dennis Chisman oration delivered by an eminent person in the science education field and recommended by member organisations, where an issue or achievement in science education is highlighted to a global audience.

Within the conference, delegates will contribute to the co-construction of a Conference Declaration for the future directions of science and technology education and promotion of science education and the environment.

A conference evaluation will be undertaken to provide feedback regarding the highlights of the conference as well as participant reactions and concerns, which can be expected to inform future ICASE initiatives and especially strategies related to organising for the next World Conference.

The next World Conference will be open for Expressions of Interest and voted on by the ICASE Executive at least 8 months before the current World Conference, so that future convenors can present information at the current conference on strategies to promote ICASE strategic plans related to its vision of delivering excellence and leadership in an active, global, collaborative science education community. For each conference ICASE will form a partnership with a host member organisation within the country in which the conference will be held. Additional partnerships may also be included in liaison with the host member organisation.

Conference Aim

The aim of ICASE World Conferences on Science and Technology Education is to impact on STE worldwide. In striving towards this impact, conferences support the mission and strategic plans of ICASE and in particular enhance the ICASE role of undertaking leadership in the STE arena, promote ways of exciting and informing science teachers, provide professional development opportunities for science teachers and educators and ensure ICASE is able to fulfill its desired goal of promoting excellence and global coordination in STE.

The World Conference is intended to undertake this by:

- (i) promoting the exchange of ideas, professional development of teachers of science and science educators, maximising cooperative links and student engagement in science and technology education, developing partnerships, networks and contributing to the field of life-long learning;
- (ii) sharing innovative science and technology teaching strategies and philosophical concepts, curriculum initiatives, developments and policies, advances in education systems including those of science education in non-formal settings, as well as materials and resources for science teaching;
- (iii) identifying professional development needs and practices (both pre- and in-service) for teachers of science and science educators, as well as developments needed in student assessment, evaluation strategies, safety strategies and risk assessment;
- (iv) disseminating coordinated research in STE, especially where this impacts on classroom science teaching and learning;
- (v) raising awareness of new activities through workshops, presentations, field trips, delegate-led discussions and multi-media sessions;
- (vi) raising awareness of methods of exchange to maximise input, sharing, networking and continued communication in science education between delegates and others worldwide;
- (vii) promoting the nature of science, the role of science and technology education in everyday life and future careers, social values, and responsible citizenry alongside capabilities related to science conceptual and skills development;
- (viii) including activities such as ICASE promoted projects; and
- (ix) promoting activities and achievements stemming from ICASE standing committees and ICASE regional representatives.