



FACT SHEET

Global Issues Network

Founded in 2003

An unprecedented student-centred approach to solving the world's problems

www.global-issues-network.org

Milestones

- **Spring 2003:** A group of educators at the International School of Luxembourg (ISL) started talking about forming a Global Issues Network (GIN)
- **November 2003:** First conference held at ISL in Luxembourg with representatives from other international schools
- **2003-2005:** Five small conferences held with an average of 30-40 participants
- **Member schools:** International Schools of Luxembourg, Düsseldorf, Milan, and the American International School of Rotterdam
- **March 2006:** First Annual Global Issues Conference, *Exploring Global Responsibility* hosted by the International School of Luxembourg in Luxembourg
- **March 2007:** Second Annual Global Issues Conference, *What can we do to make a difference?* hosted by the International School of Luxembourg in Luxembourg
- **March 2008:** Third Annual Global Issues Conference, *Engaging in Global Challenges*, hosted by the International School of Düsseldorf in Germany.

Mission: To empower students to work internationally with their peers to develop solutions for global issues

Objective: To form satellite networks of schools around the world to participate in ongoing communication and collaboration as they work in cooperation, educating themselves and seeking solutions to some of the issues facing the world today.

Framework: Based upon the principles of Jean-François Rischard, former World Bank Vice President for Europe, described in his book *High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them*.

High Noon: In his book Mr Rischard describes exponential changes that are creating immense and unprecedented global issues. Because existing institutions cannot adequately respond, alternative solutions are necessary before it is too late. He offers the concept of “global issues networks” as a means of addressing these problems. The international schools movement demonstrates the characteristics of the global networks described by Mr. Rischard – co-ordinating the efforts of independent entities around the world toward a common purpose – and are an excellent platform to apply his concepts.

Why it's important:

This programme is unique because students

- Work on *real* issues that require urgent attention – not a simulation
- Take knowledge and translate it into positive action – opportunity to improve human condition
- Take ownership of programme, and as a result take leadership
- Participate in a collaborative, non-competitive experience
- Utilize and build networks
- Capitalise on current technology and processes, such as the Internet, to communicate and effect research
- Form partnerships as they work alongside other students and adults who have a variety of talents and skills
- Realise that adults do not have all the answers

Activities of the international GIN group:

- Bi-annual conferences for member schools
- Conference on “Fair Trade”
- Identification and focus on five global issues:
 1. Water Scarcity
 2. Disease
 3. Education for all
 4. Poverty
 5. Environmental issues
- Adoption of a school in Ethiopia in cooperation with A-CET (African Children's Education Trust)
- Raising awareness within international schools about the five areas of focus
- Annual international conferences since 2006

Activities of the local (ISL) GIN group:

- GIN Conferences hosted by ISL
- Articles written for school newspaper
- Met with ISL Board of Governors to explain global issues and obtain support for the programme
- Created spin-off groups
- GIN Events at ISL
 - Global Issues Morning for elementary students
 - Fair Trade Sales to raise money
 - Raising awareness among students of the International School of Luxembourg
 - Work with student advisory groups
 - Presentations at school assemblies
 - Guest speakers