

Minister for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Joins ISL for Award Certification

(For Immediate Release)

The International School of Luxembourg's mission statement concludes with the aspiration that all students will become, "responsible participants in a global society." To support this aspiration, the school offers a rigorous International Baccalaureate diploma program, an emphasis on Creativity, Action and Service, and a learning community that shares a common commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability.

ISL's commitment to sustainability extends well beyond the classroom and is evidenced in the school's strategic master plan. As the master plan states, "ISL has experienced unprecedented growth in its recent history, and we are keen to maintain the ethos and values of the school, while embracing expansion and change."

ISL had a very "concrete" opportunity to prove this ethos recently when its newly constructed Lower School was awarded "Silver" certification by the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB). The DGNB was founded in Stuttgart in 2007, and it resolved to develop a certification system to, "identify and to distinguish particularly environmentally friendly, economically efficient buildings that conserve resources and have been optimised in terms of user comfort." The DGNB sustainability concept sets outstanding quality standards and covers all key aspects of the sustainable building process.

Although the focus is always on the wellbeing of the user, there are over 50 factors used to assess a building and they range from criteria such as: environmental impact, environmentally friendly material production, energy demand, efficient use of space, visual comfort, integration of public art, social and labour infrastructure, pollution control, waste and rainwater management, community involvement and dozens more.

The DGNB sustainability certification is not just an assessment of a final product, it is a holistic assessment regarding the ethos and sustainability values of all participants in the design and construction process – from client to architect, labourer to occupant and supplier to consumer.

The new Lower School comprises the third and most ambitious phase of ISL's facility expansion which began in 2007 with the construction of the Hillside Building. Construction continued with the addition of a five-storey, 15-room extension to the current Upper School in 2010 and a subsequent refit of the Upper School building in 2013. The expansion has facilitated the rapid growth of the school to an excess of 1280 pupils today.

The ISL expansion would not have been possible without the support of the Luxembourg government and especially the ministries of education, finance, and public works. François Bausch, Minister of Environmental Sustainability and Development, will speak at ISL, and the school will receive their Silver Certification from the German Sustainable Building Council at a reception on October 14, 2014 at 18:00 in the Lower School atrium.

For more information contact Margot Parra, ISL Development Manager at mparra@islux.lu or call +352 26 04 41 16.

Author: Chris Starr, Communications and Marketing Specialist / Team Leader

International School of Luxembourg, Campus Geesseknaepchen, L-1430 Luxembourg

email: cstarr@islux.lu – phone: 26 04 41 24 – web: www.islux.lu
