Young scientists from UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet) explore biodiversity

2 February 2010

Biodiversity and Sustainability was the subject of the 12th International Meeting of Young Scientists of the UNESCO Associated Schools, held in Santarém, Portugal, from 13 to 16 January.

The meeting brought together 55 ASPnet students and teachers from 4 countries (Andorra, Portugal, Spain and United States of America) to launch the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity with students and a teacher from each country presenting their research on topics including Evolution, Biodiversity and Sustainability, Sustainability of the Systems of Animal Production, Public Health and Fight Against Poverty and Protected Areas and Biodiversity Maintenance. Working group sessions and study visits were held with the outcomes to be published in a report.

The International Meetings of Young Scientists were initiated in 1998 by the Secondary School Sá da Bandeira, an ASPnet school in Portugal. Ever since, this yearly meeting has brought ASPnet students and teachers together to promote science education and improve investigative learning, to develop communication among scientists and students and to raise awareness of UNESCO values and the limits ethics impose upon investigation. The meetings have lead to a number of international partnership projects at school level.

The 13th International Meeting will take place in Santarém from 12 to 15 January, 2011, in celebration of the International Year of Chemistry, under the title "Everything transforms itself."