

Ceremony to celebrate the signing of the  
**Memorandum of Understanding**  
 establishing the **global partnership** between  
**Foundation for Environmental Education and**  
**United Nations Environment Programme**  
*London, March 03, 2003*

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On 3 March, 2003, in the New Art Gallery of the Guildhall in London, England, a special ceremony took place to celebrate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding which “*formalises long-standing relationship between UNEP and FEE and provides a framework for long term co-operation on areas of common interest relating to education, training and public awareness for sustainable development globally*”.

This MoU provides a solid basis for furthering the work already undertaken in collaboration between FEE and UNEP, in particular with regard to the introduction of FEE programmes and associated activities, particularly in developing countries and those with economies in transition.

The event counted on the presence of FEE and UNEP representatives, Members of Parliament, local government organisations, press, sponsors and partners of the UK and international Eco-Schools Coordinations.



*Signing the UNEP – FEE Memorandum of Understanding*

The Memorandum was signed by Dr Klaus Toepfer, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UNEP, and Prof. Graham Ashworth, President of FEE, in the presence of Mr Michael Meacher, Minister for Environment.

Also present were, from FEE, Mr Jan Eriksen (Vice-President), Mr Heiko Crost (Executive Board Member), Nigel Tansley-Thomas (Director), Sérgio Santos (Eco-Schools International Coordinator) and Sue Rigby (UK Eco-Schools Manager).



*From left to right: Mr Jan Eriksen, Dr Klaus Toepfer, Prof. Graham Ashworth, Mr Michael Meacher, Mr Heiko Crost*

From UNEP, the ceremony counted with the presence of Akpezi Ogbuigwe, UNEP’s Head of Environmental Education and Training at the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, and Robert Bisset, Spokesperson for Europe.

The ceremony was graciously organised by ENCAMS, FEE Member organisation for the United Kingdom.

## Significance of the Memorandum for the Eco-Schools Programme

Already in implementation or as a pilot programme in 25 countries throughout Europe, there has been much interest in Eco-Schools from other regions. UNEP is the right partner to cooperate with FEE in the internationalisation process of its programmes, including Eco-Schools.

The Eco-Schools programme is recognised in the Memorandum by UNEP as among its “preferred school-based / children and youth global model programmes for environmental education, management, sustainability and certification at the international level” (Art 3, 5b).

In addition to working together to add value to the programme throughout Europe, the UNEP-FEE partnership will provide support to the introduction of Eco-Schools in particular in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean; an exploratory workshop on “Eco-Schools Partnerships for Africa” was jointly carried out in 2002 and will be a model for a similar event to evaluate partnerships, opportunities and needs for the programme in Asia.

UNEP and the Eco-Schools International Coordination will cooperate closely on organising events, producing publications and other support material, identifying and promoting good practise, and carrying out specific projects which contribute to the objectives of the partnership memorandum specifically, and those of education for sustainable development generally.

For more information:

- [www.eco-schools.org](http://www.eco-schools.org)
- [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

