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Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí
Cork Institute of Technology

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EUROPEAN ENERGY SAVINGS AWARDS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Innovation presents prizes to winning schools and students at Bord Gáis sponsored awards

Monday 4th October [1.00pm, **Tourism and Hospitality Building**]. CIT hosted the Irish round of the European Energy Saving Awards, which were presented by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Batt O'Keeffe, TD. The Bord Gáis sponsored awards are part of the Intelligent Use of Energy At School initiative (IUSES).

The prize-winners, and their teachers from the nine winning secondary schools throughout Ireland, were joined by Lord Mayor of Cork City, Councillor Michael O'Connell, Cork County Mayor, Councillor Jim Daly, CIT President Dr Brendan Murphy, John Mullins, Chief Executive of Bord Gáis, Noel Duffy from the Clean Technology Centre, CIT, as well as other dignitaries, CIT staff and Governors, and invited guests from the areas of education and energy. The Clean Technology Centre at CIT coordinates the competition for Ireland with the support of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, in association with Sustainable Energy Europe.

The European Energy Saving Award (EESA) is part of the IUSES project, and recognises schools and students that are enthusiastic and active in bringing about reduced energy consumption and who can demonstrate how simple changes can make a difference. The IUSES 2009/10 project is an educational programme that aims to show secondary school students the basic principles of energy efficiency and give a comprehensive guide to saving energy in their everyday lives via an interactive educational and experimental programme.

The Award comprises three categories: Schools; Individual or Groups of Students; and Videos/Multimedia (individual and/or group). In all, nine prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placing in each category. In an excellent and very competitive contest, the students and schools in each grouping showed great understanding and knowledge of energy issues in their schools and homes and have achieved impressive energy savings through a wide range of wholehearted activities. Through measuring and managing their energy usage and developing programmes for efficiency, awareness raising and behavioural change, these schools and their students have led the way for the second level educational sector in Ireland, showing how we can better meet future energy needs and also develop a cleaner greener economy. In the video/multimedia category, the students also showed great technical skill and artistic flair to produce effective, interesting and stimulating videos and music presenting the merits of energy efficiency and proving that being green can also be 'cool'.

The overall European competition consists of two qualifying rounds: national winners where for each category, three outright winners are selected in every participating country; and European winners, where the winner of each category from all 14 participating

countries will compete for the European Award in Trieste, Italy in November 2010. The leading Irish winners in each of the categories will compete for those prizes.

The details of the winning schools and students are as follows:

Schools Category:

1st Prize - Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Blarney, Co. Cork

2nd Prize - Ursuline Secondary School, Blackrock, Cork

3rd Prize - Scoil Ruain, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary.

Students Category:

1st Prize - The students of St. Patrick's College, (Lacken Cross, Killala, Co. Mayo).

2nd Prize - Eadaoin Connolly and Laura Fitzsimons (Ard Scoil Rath Iomghain, Rathangan, Co. Kildare).

3rd Prize - Elizabeth O'Carroll (Presentation Secondary School, Listowel, Co. Kerry).

Multimedia Category:

1st Prize - Karimah Gambo (St. Josephs College, Lucan, Co. Dublin);

2nd Prize - Evelyn Finnerty (Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Blarney, Co. Cork).

3rd Prize - Rebecca Gallagher and Lauren Mountford (Ard Scoil Rath Iomghain, Rathangan, Co. Kildare).

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Batt O'Keeffe TD, congratulated the national winners.

“Last September, I launched this initiative and I am delighted that the first national winners have emerged with innovative approaches to energy conservation. These awards have stirred a new consciousness of environmental issues by engaging students in energy-saving activities using a hands-on and real-world approach. The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme is leading an agenda of behavioural change in schools and in the wider community. Energy sustainability is key to our future.

A key component of the prosperity we are now working to capture is security of energy supply and these awards encourage better energy efficiency practices and a greener approach to our everyday lives. I wish all nine winners every success as they go on to the European stage of the awards held in Italy later this year,” said Minister O'Keeffe.

In Ireland, the IUSES project and EESA competition are coordinated by the Clean Technology CIT, with the support of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and in association with Sustainable Energy Europe.

IUSES has also developed a behaviour-oriented educational kit, supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme and sponsored in Ireland by Bord Gáis, which includes: handbooks, multimedia animations and an extensive experiment tool-kit. The educational kit was made available to participating secondary schools and teachers and engaged students in all stages of the project. As part of the project, many teachers from all over Ireland were also trained by the Clean Technology Centre in a series of in-service training days on usage of the materials, the awards and on energy issues at school, at home, in transport and in industry.

Further details on IUSES and the EESA awards are available on www.iuses.eu or from the Clean Technology Centre, CIT at 021 4344864 or email iuses.ctc@ctc-cork.ie.

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Background information:

The Clean Technology Centre, CIT

The Clean Technology Centre is a not-for profit environmental research and consultancy centre of excellence, based in Cork Institute of Technology. Established in 1992, CTC provides services to many clients, including individual companies (portfolio of over 150 companies), sectoral groups, and umbrella industrial organisations. Other clients include local authorities, national agencies, Departments of the Irish Government and several DGs of the European Commission – CTC has carried out 94 environmental research projects with over 100 partners from more than 30 countries. The Clean Technology Centre is the Irish Partner of the IUSES Project.

Bord Gáis:

Bord Gáis, a commercial semi-state organisation, steadily progressing to become Ireland's sustainable provider of customer-led solutions, is delighted to support IUSES and EESA. Bord Gáis champions energy sustainability and recognises its role in facilitating initiatives that develop awareness of energy efficiency in our younger generation as well as nurturing potential to address these issues and establish sustainable solutions for the future.

Bord Gáis places great emphasis on the educational forum as a means of encouraging and supporting students to understand energy, its use, the benefits of utilising energy efficiently and as a method of nurturing interest in researching and exploring other sources of energy. Through an active research and development fund, Bord Gáis currently supports an increase in the quantity and quality of research in alternative energies in Ireland's colleges and invests in campus/technology companies in prototyping and bringing technologies to market.

Intelligent Energy Europe:

The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme is implemented by the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency which was established by the EU to help achieve the Union's policy objectives in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency. The EU recognises that there are many untapped opportunities to save energy and encourage the use of renewable energy sources in Europe, but market conditions do not always help. The Intelligent Energy - Europe programme is the EU's tool for encouraging action to improve these conditions and move us towards a more energy intelligent Europe.