**Consortium of Education Centres**

**PRESS RELEASE**

3rd April 2014

**AWARD LOOKS TO OPEN UP A WORLD OF LEARNING FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**

Friday 28th March, saw the official launch of the EU funded Global Teachers Award programme at the National Global Education Conference, held at CAN Mezzanine, Southwark, London.

The half-a-million pound project originally developed by the Consortium of Development Education Centres, with seed funding from Oxfam GB, secured European funding last year to further develop the award and also pilot it in Latvia, Hungary and Ireland.

Richard Baker, Head of Education and Youth, Oxfam GB, stated: “(It was) wonderful to see how the scheme has come of age and is enabling teachers to inspire their students and other teachers in new ways when it comes to global citizenship."

Tom Franklin, Chief Executive of Think Global, added: “It is great to see the enthusiasm of teachers for the Global Teachers Award. I think it taps into one of the main reasons people become teachers in the first place: a desire to help young people play their part in creating a fairer and more sustainable world.”

The award aims to up-skill teachers with the tools and knowledge to aid their pupils in better understanding how the world works using critical literacy and other global education theories.

A research paper published by Think Global in 2011 polled 500 chief-executives in the UK and over 93% of them agreed that “it is important for schools to help young people develop the ability to think globally,” and 80% thought, “Schools should be doing more.” (Global Skills Gap, 2011, Think Global)

The programme is structured as a three level award programme, with Level 1 being delivered by 19 Development Education Centres across England, with over 300 teachers having already completed the Level 1 Award.

The England partners for the award include Oxfam GB, Think Global and Liverpool Hope University. All GTA courses are listed on [www.globalclassrooms.org.uk](http://www.globalclassrooms.org.uk).

**END OF STATEMENT**

The Consortium of Development Education Centres is made of 30 centres across England. Members of CoDEC all agree that Global learning helps equip children and young people to live successfully and responsibly in an interconnected world. Global learning is closely related to ‘the Global Dimension in the Curriculum’ and ‘Education for Global Citizenship’. Global learning is not an ‘additional subject’ to cram into an overcrowded curriculum, but goes to the heart of what education is for.

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