



# SciFest Ezine

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

OCTOBER 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **WIN AN IPOD**  
SciFest Science Week 2010 Cross-word Competition.  
Downloadable from [www.scifest.ie](http://www.scifest.ie)
- The closing date for receipt of entries for SciFest 2011 is 9 March 2011

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## Welcome back from SciFest

I am sure that by the time this newsletter arrives the summer holidays will have faded into a distant memory. Schools have been busy places since 1 September. Many activities have taken place after school or at weekends. The Frontiers of Physics Conference was held in the Department of Experimental Physics, NUI Maynooth on Saturday 25 Sept. and ChemEd 2010 took place in DIT on Saturday 9 Oct.

Entries for the BTYSTE 2011 had to be in by the 4 Oct. It's difficult to keep

students motivated while they are waiting to see if their project has been accepted for exhibition but if they are serious about en-

tering they should continue working on their projects during this waiting period. If the one page proposal does not tick all the boxes

the project may not be accepted. Remind them that SciFest 2011 takes place in April/May and to keep on investigating.



**SciFest 2010@ ITTralee Intel Best Project Award Muireann Keating, Presentation Secondary School, Tralee**

**The closing date for entries for SciFest 2011 is 9 March 2011**

**Please note:**  
Schools will be closed for the Easter holidays from 8 April – 2 May 2011. Many ITs will be holding their SciFest science fairs before Easter.

**SciFest 2011 @CIT 8 April  
SciFest 2011 @DIT 14 April  
SciFest 2011 @AIT 14 April**

**Further dates will be posted on the website [www.scifest.ie](http://www.scifest.ie) as they become available.**

## 2649 students exhibited 1097 projects in SciFest 2010



**SciFest 2010 @GMIT Intel Best Project Award and Discover Sensors Award Winners**

**Roisin Kelly, Sadhbh Burke and Katie Connole**

**Mary Immaculate Secondary school, Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare**

**Project Title: 'Rushes as an Insulator'**

SciFest 2010 @DIT  
Discover Sensors  
Award winner



Bryce Leonel Ndjatang,  
St. Joseph's Sec. Sch.,  
Rush, Co Dublin

“A great memory does not make a mind, any more than a dictionary is a piece of literature.”

John Henry Newman

“I would definitely consider this college. The tour really impressed me”

Student quote  
SciFest 2010

## SciFest 2010 - The Statistics

2649 Students	62% Junior
1097 Projects	33% Intermediate
196 Schools	5% Senior
291 Teachers	87% Group
28 Counties	13% Individual
154 Discover Sensors Projects	36% Physical Sciences
14 Institutes of Technology	9% Technology
1 venue in Northern Ireland	55% Life Sciences
	44% Male
	56% Female
	Well done and congratulations to the students, the teachers, the IT coordinators, and the judges.

## Massive Increase in Numbers Participating in SciFest

The inaugural SciFest nationwide, **6241 students** participated in SciFest was held in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, **2613 projects**. This is a clear indication of the interest and enthusiasm among students and teachers in the Dublin, in 2006 and represents an increase in participation of 23% in SciFest was launched in 2009 and a further investigative approach to the three years since increase of 34% in 2010. teaching and learning Scifest was launched The rapid increase in science.

## SciFest and the Institutes of Technology



# A Celebration of Excellence in Science and Maths and Launch of SciFest 2011

Conor Lenihan TD, Minister for Science, Technology, Innovation and Natural Resources, launched SciFest 2011 on 8 October with a 'Celebration of Excellence in Science and Maths' in the Innovation Open Lab in Intel Ireland, Leixlip, Co. Kildare. Thirty-five second-level students were awarded Intel Excellence in Science medals in recognition of their achievement in SciFest 2010. Each of the thirty-five students had been either individual or group winners of the 'Best Project' awards at SciFest 2010. The winners of the SciFest 2010 Mathematics in Science Award were also announced and trophies were presented to the three projects that the judges decided best illustrated the importance of mathematics in science. Speaking at the launch, Minister Lenihan said, "SciFest is a fantastic example of industry, the education sector and government partnering together to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). By clearly illustrating the links between what students learn in the classroom, the opportunities at third level and potential career paths, SciFest plays a

valuable role in helping to encourage young people to pursue opportunities in the Smart Economy. The 34% increase in participation in last year's competition is a clear sign that SciFest is going from strength-to-strength and reflects the growing interest among students in pursuing STEM related courses at third level. I would like to congratulate Intel and Discover Science and Engineering for partnering on this project, and I also praise BT, Abbott, DairyMaster and PharmaChemical Ireland for their generous support of SciFest".

**"SciFest is a fantastic example of industry, the education sector and government partnering together to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)."**

**Minister Conor Lenihan TD**



**Intel Best Project Award and Mathematics in Science Award winners with Minister Conor Lenihan, TD**

**Also in photograph Pat Delahunty (Intel), Peter Brabazon (Discover Science & Engineering), Sheila Porter (SciFest Project Manager), Brendan Cannon (Intel) and Dr Pádraig O'Murchú (Intel)**



## SciFest

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SciFest is jointly funded by Intel Ireland and Discover Science and Engineering as project partners



## SciFest 2011 - New Awards

The following new awards will be presented at each Institute of Technology/venue

### PharmaChemical Ireland International Year of Chemistry 2011 Award

Trophy  
One4All vouchers

### NCE-MSTL Maths in Science Award (National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning)

Trophy

### European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) Award

Details to be announced.

### DIT Applied Computing Award (DIT only)

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR UPDATES

## Workshops and Competitions

### 2010 ESA/GTTP workshop for science teachers

ESA along with the Galileo Teacher Training Programme are organising a workshop for science teachers at the NEMO Science Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 7-10 December 2010.

The workshop is aimed at science teachers of students aged between 11 and 19 years old. A limited number of places is available and application details can be found on the 'How to apply' page.

[http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Education/SEMGMNMO7EG\\_0.html](http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Education/SEMGMNMO7EG_0.html)

### ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011

Registration is now open for Ireland's most exciting environmental awards programme for young people, the **ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards**.

The Awards **recognise** and **reward** the achievements of young people in environmental protection and are open to any group of young people, aged 10-18, who want to take action on key environmental issues such as climate change, energy, waste, biodiversity, transport and more...

### REGISTER NOW!

<http://www.ecounesco.ie/13.aspx>



### SciFest Science Week 2010 Crossword Competition

Downloadable from website, [www.scifest.ie](http://www.scifest.ie)  
Closing date for receipt of entries Monday 15 November