FACT SHEET

Global Issues Network (GIN)
Founded in 2003

An unprecedented student-centred approach to solving the world's problems

www.global –issues-network.org

Milestones

- **Spring 2003**: A group of educators at the International School of Luxembourg (ISL) started talking about forming a Global Issues Network (GIN)
- **November 2003**: First conference held at ISL in Luxembourg with representatives from five other international schools
- **March 2006 and March 2007**: First Annual Global Issues Conference, and second annual conference hosted by the International School of Luxembourg, thanks to the generous sponsorship of State Street Bank Luxembourg. Subsequent conferences have been held in Germany, Switzerland (2) and March 2011 will see the conference returning to Luxembourg
- **Organisation of GIN Conferences** in Africa, Asia, America and the Middle East

Mission: To empower students to work internationally with their peers to develop solutions for global issues

Objective: To form satellite networks of schools around the world to participate in ongoing communication and collaboration as they work in cooperation, educating themselves and seeking solutions to some of the issues facing the world today.

Framework: Based upon the principles of Jean-François Rischard, former World Bank Vice President for Europe, described in his book *High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them.*

> ***High Noon:*** In his book, Mr. Rischard describes exponential changes that are creating immense and unprecedented global issues. Because existing institutions cannot adequately respond, alternative solutions are necessary before it is too late. He offers the concept of 'global issues networks' as a means of addressing these problems. The international schools movement demonstrates the characteristics of the global networks described by Mr. Rischard-coordinating the efforts of independent entities around the world toward a common purpose-and are an excellent platform to apply his concepts.

Why is it important?
This programme is unique because students:
- Work on *real* issues that require urgent attention – not a simulation
- Take knowledge and translate it into positive action – opportunity to improve the human condition
- Take ownership of the programme, and as a result take leadership
- Participate in a collaborative, non-competitive experience
- Utilize and build networks
- Capitalise on current technology and processes, such as the Internet, to communicate and effect research
- Form partnerships as they work alongside other students and adults who have a variety of talents and skills
- Realise that adults do not have all the answers