

## EC Partners

Delegations all over the world

National and Local Authorities and Schools

European School of Brussels

## Facts and Figures

- 60 countries involved in the competition
- More than 23,000 children participated with their drawings



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

# Gender equality

## International Women's day 2009

### Children's Gender Drawing Competition

*Princess Mathilde: "can you tell me what made you chose this drawing" - Dan: "Perhaps it wasn't the most beautiful picture and to start with we didn't all agree. We discussed it for a long time, because the other drawings were very beautiful; but in the end we chose this one because the caption is perfect, a perfect world if we all share it"*

HRH Princesse Mathilde of Belgium and Dan, age 10



## Context

For the third year in a row, the European Commission launched an international drawing competition on gender equality on the 8th of March to celebrate International Women's Day. The competition called on children from all over the world to express their vision of gender equality. Under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium, 14 overall winners from the 7 regions were selected by a jury composed of peer students from the European School in Brussels and each received a prize equivalent to €1000.

## Objective

- The objective of the competition is to call on children between the ages of 8-10 years to express their vision on equality between men and women.
- Promote the creativity, enthusiasm and integration of the concept "gender equality" in the spirit of the children.

## Impact

- Opening the debate at institutional level by involving the relevant national and local authorities, as well as teachers, in the planning and implementation of the competition.
- Raising the consciousness and awareness of the children and their families.
- Enhancing the debate within the civil society and the media in the countries where the competition takes place.
- 4 winners selected from 7 regions of the world: Algeria, Benin, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Malaysia, Mexico, Somalia, Togo and Ukraine.

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#### Together we will make our world a better place

**Bi Jing Chan** is a 9 year old girl who lives in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), and is a student of Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan Chung Kwok. Her drawing depicts the wisdom of achieving dreams and of never giving up, "no matter if you are a girl or a boy - never give up and our dream will come true - Together we will make our world a better place".

Bi Jing's drawing tells that girls and boys (even when they are adults) have similar opportunities and can pursue their dreams and ambitions. They can become an astronaut, a chef, a judge or even a scientist, if that is their dream.

In an equal world, both girls and boys are happy and everyone is smiling more. And it is our responsibility to ensure that the seesaw is balanced so that everybody is equal.



Never give up and our dream will come true