

Minister Launches New On-line Photo Library

The National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) has today (Wednesday, 2nd July 2008) launched ImageBank, www.imagebank.ie, a new online interactive photo library for students and teachers. Minister for Education and Science, Batt O’Keeffe T.D., was on hand to help launch the new website at Dublin Zoo.

ImageBank.ie is intended as a supportive resource for students and teachers in Irish education. Part of Scoilnet, ImageBank.ie is a safe online photo library containing thousands of photos suitable for use in the classroom. The site provides access to photos of Irish significance and of relevance to the Irish curriculum such as, historical sites and buildings, animals, sport and flowers. The website has been designed to allow members of the public, especially those with a direct connection or interest in Irish education, to upload any relevant photos they may have so that schoolchildren and teachers can use the images in their classrooms.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Batt O’Keeffe said **“ImageBank is a much needed online resource for Irish schools. I am very impressed by the bank of images already on the site and can see very clearly the support this will offer teachers in exploring so many areas of curriculum. I would appeal to other organisations, teachers and individuals to help the NCTE in building this resource so that there is coverage of all counties in Ireland.”**

Commenting at the launch, Jerome Morrissey, Director of the NCTE, said;
“Teachers are constantly searching for images to support all areas of the curriculum. The interest in and enthusiasm for the project is very impressive. We are hoping that this website captures the imagination and support of the public in building this online resource for schools.”

ImageBank.ie is proudly supported by The Irish Times and RTÉ. Its reservoir of images has been supported by the Dublin Zoo, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Office of Public Works, Iarnród Éireann and John F. Kennedy Library to name but a few.

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Editor’s note:

The National Centre for Technology in Education is an agency of the Department of Education and Science established to provide advice, support and information on the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in education. **Scoilnet** is the portal for Irish education and ImageBank is a satellite site of Scoilnet. ImageBank offers access to a diverse range of appropriate, safe photographic content. All photos go through an approval process prior to publication so **ONLY** suitable content will be retrieved from searches. All the photos are freely available for educational, non-commercial use — there is no charge to use the photos if they are being used in an educational context and the creator of the photo is credited. Creative Commons licences are being used to facilitate content sharing on the website.

Please note a spokesperson is available for interview:

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