ASEM: CONNECTING ASIA AND EUROPE

Connectivity Inventory
ASEM Connectivity Inventory

Clingendael
Netherlands Institute of International Relations Institute
Maaike Okano-Heijmans
Wouter Zweers

ERIA
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
Anita Prakash
About the authors

Maaike Okano-Heijmans is a Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute. Her main research interests are economic diplomacy and international relations in East Asia. Maaike is Clingendael’s scientific coordinator in the EU’s Asia-Pacific Research and Advice Network (APRAN) and coordinator of the PROGRESS framework, encompassing all projects for the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. She is a lecturer of Leiden University’s Advanced Master in International Relations and Diplomacy (AMIRD) and a Board member of the European Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN).

Anita Prakash is Director General (Policy Design Department) of ERIA. Her key role is policy support to leaders and senior officials in the governments of Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania on political economy, growth, narrowing development gaps, regional economic integration and related matters, using the research results of ERIA. She works closely with ASEM member states and their Dialogue Partners in the Asia-Pacific Region, and also in Europe. She is presently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Wouter Zweers is a Junior Researcher at the Clingendael Institute, where he focuses on a wide range of EU-related issues, including EU foreign policy and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Brigitte Dekker is a Research Assistant at the Clingendael Institute. She has contributed to this report as a data analyst and infographic designer.

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I. Executive Summary

The need for strengthened connectivity between Asia and Europe has been recognised by the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) since the 10th ASEM Summit in 2014 in Italy. The 11th ASEM Summit in 2016 in Ulaanbaatar agreed to make ASEM responsive to emerging demands for connectivity within a framework of economic prosperity, institutional linkages, and social-cultural exchange and cooperation. To this end, it established the ASEM Pathfinders Group on Connectivity (APGC).

In view of the unique institutional nature of ASEM and the diversity within the ASEM framework, the ASEM Connectivity Inventory consolidates the lessons learned in the field of connectivity from ASEM activities held between October 2014 and July 2018. As such, it supports the APGC to further develop the direction of and framework for policy processes of ASEM’s connectivity activities.

Two key conclusions emerge from the inventory of ASEM activities. First, a considerable number of ASEM activities touch upon one or more of the three connectivity pillars, but their relevance and contribution to advancing physical, institutional or people-to-people connectivity in member countries are not fully evident. The uneven distribution of events over time and topics, along with inadequate follow-up, and indeterminate implementation of outcomes are not uncommon in activities under the three pillars of ASEM.

Second, the formal structures of ASEM – such as Ministers’ meetings and Summits – are rather results-oriented. These structures constitute ASEM’s strength as they typically provide clear guidance and direction. The APGC can benefit from guidance by Ministerial and SOM meetings on transport, economy, and finance – the hard aspects of ASEM connectivity – as these bodies have welcomed the APGC’s formation and expressed the expectation that their work will be linked with that of the APGC.

Based on these findings, this ASEM Connectivity Inventory recommends the following:

- To identify focus areas of ASEM connectivity, building on the crucial step that was taken with the intended adoption of 5 focus areas for ‘Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the Field of Connectivity’ (TACC).
- To consider a greater role for the APGC (and the SOM) to better manage the diversity and uneven outcomes of ASEM connectivity activities through a careful selection of topics, better coordination among stakeholders, wider participation (of youth and women in particular), and above all a more unified way of presenting findings and outcome documents to provide a shared sense of direction and follow-up.
- To better address the gap between present-day ASEM connectivity activities and future or longer-term connectivity needs. The APGC could facilitate this makeover.
- To enhance the performance of ASEM’s informal meetings – Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues – with the clear focus and direction of its formal structures.
- In moving forward and to seek value addition for ASEM connectivity activities, the APGC could establish linkages with other multilateral bodies, global compacts and non-ASEM programmes of Asia–Europe cooperation in the field of connectivity.
- To further revamp the information gathering and sharing functions of ASEM Infoboard with a view to streamlining ASEM data sharing and communication.

To rationalise, coordinate and disseminate connectivity-related activities in ASEM is the way forward for the APGC and will make ASEM more responsive and relevant to the peoples of Asia and Europe.
II. Introduction

The Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a collective effort to foster greater connectivity among the geographies, economies and peoples of Asia and Europe. At the 10th ASEM Summit in 2014 in Italy, ‘Leaders underscored the significance of connectivity between the two regions to economic prosperity and sustainable development’. The 11th ASEM Summit in 2016 in Ulaanbaatar agreed to make ASEM responsive to emerging demands and the need for connectivity, and to this end established the ASEM Pathfinders Group on Connectivity (APGC). The APGC was tasked with providing a commonly agreed definition of connectivity; a list of activities that meet this definition; undertaking specific connectivity activities; providing key elements for an ASEM connectivity plan of action; and a realistic assessment of ASEM’s value proposition regarding connectivity.

ASEM Connectivity was defined at the APGC meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in 2017. It was established that:

Connectivity is about bringing countries, people and societies closer together. It facilitates access and is a means to foster deeper economic and people-to-people ties. It encompasses the hard and soft aspects, including the physical and institutional social-cultural linkages that are the fundamental supportive means to enhance the economic, political-security, and socio-cultural ties between Asia and Europe, which also contribute to the narrowing of the varying levels of development and capacities.

As stipulated in the APGC Terms of Reference (TOR), once a definition of connectivity is agreed, an inventory of existing ASEM activities that meet ASEM’s definition of connectivity would be prepared. This report presents an inventory of ASEM activities held between the ASEM Milan Summit in October 2014 and July 2018, to support the aforementioned APGC objectives. This inventory and the accompanying qualitative assessment of ASEM activities will also support the APGC to explore possible focus areas of ASEM cooperation and the mechanisms and processes that will help mainstream connectivity into ASEM activities. In fulfilment of the objectives sought in the APGC TOR, the qualitative assessment and the SWOT analysis facilitate a realistic understanding of ASEM’s value proposition – and resourcing requirements – regarding connectivity. The recommendations in the final part of the report are aimed to support the APGC in its advisory role to senior officials on matters related to ASEM connectivity and the way forward.

III. Methodology

The primary source of information for the ASEM Connectivity Inventory is the ASEM Infoboard (www.aseminfoboard.com). The synthesis of outcome documents and qualitative assessment of ASEM activities are complemented by information derived from the Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF) Annual Report.

The ASEM Connectivity Inventory’s qualitative assessment of activities and recommendations to APGC are guided by two important documents: the Asia–Europe Cooperation Framework (ACEF 2000); and the APGC Terms of Reference (TOR).

An ASEM Connectivity Inventory database, sourced from ASEM Infoboard, was prepared for this report. The database includes all ASEM events since the ASEM Milan Summit (2014) up until July 2018. It should be noted that because of the wide divergences in themes and objectives of these activities/events, the authors first examined all activities and subsequently synthesised their outcome documents, follow-ups, and other significant aspects such as contribution to regional and sub-regional policies on connectivity. This helped in assessing the capacity and scope of how ASEM events contribute to ASEM connectivity, and their relevance for the APGC’s definition of connectivity.

Due to the lack of a common framework for organising ASEM activities, the qualitative assessment of activities had to be based on a synthesis of outcome documents, agreed follow-up steps and policy decisions, their actual implementation, monitoring and follow-up events, and obstacles in achieving any or all of these. In certain cases, the qualitative assessment of ASEM activities – including ASEF events – goes beyond the APGC definition of connectivity. This is helpful in making robust recommendations to the APGC for mainstreaming connectivity into ASEM activities and streamlining the mechanisms for ASEM activities.

Based on the synthesis of outcomes and the qualitative assessment of activities, a SWOT analysis has been conducted for ASEM’s role in the field of connectivity and scope for the APGC in enhancing connectivity between Asia and Europe. The SWOT analysis is also instrumental for identifying the critical gaps that the APGC will have to address in its future activities.

The ASEM Connectivity Inventory Database includes a numerical distribution of activities across ASEM pillars, regions, countries, outputs and focus areas, etc. The number-based information is intended to assist the APGC in streamlining ASEM connectivity activities across the three pillars and is visualised in the Infographics included in this report.
### IV. Synthesis and Qualitative Assessment of ASEM Events and Outcome Documents

The ACEF 2000 and the APGC Terms of Reference, accompanied by the APGC definition of ASEM connectivity, are the guiding documents used for the synthesis of outcome documents from ASEM activities. This section examines the outcome documents of all listed activities with a view to establishing their fit in the APGC definition of connectivity. Documents of 140 activities were studied and their outcomes were synthesised. A total of 112 activities were found to fit into the APGC definition of connectivity.1 For the qualitative assessment of activities, outcome documents were analysed to identify agreed follow-up steps and policy-related decisions, including their actual implementation, and follow-up events.

Additionally, any evidence of impact by these outcome documents on (sub-)regional and national policy-making processes pertaining to Asia–Europe connectivity has been taken into account. The critical gaps and uneven choice of focus areas have also been considered for this assessment and are reflected in the recommendations to the APGC.

The qualitative assessment of ASEM’s role in the field of connectivity makes use of the key principles outlined in ASEM’s connectivity definition. Based on types of stakeholders and participation, all ASEM activities are categorised under Track 1, Track 1.5, and Track 2.

**Track 1 – Inter-governmental**

The more formalised structures of ASEM activity produce more focused results and are therefore highly relevant to ASEM connectivity. ASEM Summit Statements carry clear observations and desirable directions for ASEM. The outcomes of ASEM ministerial meetings contain mostly clear guidance, directions and action points.

The ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) may mandate the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) for more precision in agenda development, event planning, coordination of activities, monitoring of results, linking results into ASEM pillars and, where possible, into global programmes of similar topics.

Only a few topics, such as transport, education, culture, finance and labour, have established ministerial-level meetings and SOM processes.

Available outcome documents of ASEM activities (forums and symposiums, etc.) do not establish whether these outcomes are used in SOMs reporting to ministers.

Likewise, ministerial meetings’ outcomes do not reflect whether relevant activities were reported/brought to ministerial meetings/SOMs, and therefore whether they were integrated into the ASEM processes and results.

Ideally, line ministry SOMs should have an overview of all ASEM activities conducted under its subject matter.

Some Track 1 ministerial meetings (Education and Transport) have specific and result-oriented guidance for connectivity.2 The education sector is most active in the social and cultural pillar.

Activities of educational and cultural connectivity have diverse centres for planning, coordination and participation.

**Track 1.5 – Governments plus academia, business and other stakeholders**

Activities under this category include ASEM forums, symposiums, roundtables on varying subjects of interest and applications.

The subjects dealt with include – with infrequent consistency and timing – nuclear energy safety, SME financing, immigration, countering radicalisation, equal opportunities for women, sustainable development, disability and ageing, tourism, disaster rescue and relief,4 green shipping, technical and vocational education training, pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and food security, etc.

Documents on the Infoboard do not detail the monitoring of education-related activities, their results and outcomes.5 With different administrative structures for education activities, ASEM needs to give special attention to this aspect. The diversity aspects of this activity are reported in the recommendations to the APGC.

From the information available on the Infoboard, it could not be determined whether the ASEM Education Secretariat reports its activities to the ASEM Track 1.

Common standards for the output and feedback of output into connectivity-related policies and priorities among member countries are important to enhance Asia–Europe connectivity and to address future concerns of ASEM.

Ministerial and SOM meetings on transport, the economy and finance – the hard aspects of ASEM connectivity – have welcomed the APGC’s formation and expect their work to be linked with that of the APGC.

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2. For example, education ministers’ guidance to the ASEM education secretariat, transport ministers’ guidance for the Asia–Eurasia Expert Group Meeting (AEEG) and the feasibility study by ASEM think tanks for a synergic approach to regional transport plans, etc.

3. Reporting and monitoring of the past workings of the ASEM Education Secretariat (when it was held by Indonesia) are not reflected in the ministerial meeting documents. They are also not available through links. The ASEM Education Secretariat moved to Belgium in 2017 for the next five years. The ASEM Programme for student exchange between Asia and Europe has its secretariat in South Korea. This is, however, a Korean initiative under the ASEM brand and not a formal ASEM programme. The hybrid nature of this programme is an important guidance for future connectivity frameworks of the APGC.

4. This event’s output went to the East Asia Summit (EAS), not to ASEM.
The organization and outcomes of an activity are dependent on the host country’s interest, level of coordination, reach, and its ability to follow up on the activity’s results.

Lists of participants, speakers, their diversity and affiliation are not reported uniformly in the documents posted on the Infoboard. The quality of information and quantity of documents vary greatly. A final report is available on the Infoboard for only one-fifth of events.

Programmes and agendas are the most common available documents. The above points suggest that ASEM’s capacity to draw concrete action points from its activities is very limited.

Track 1.5 activities should be reviewed, focus areas created, coordination mechanisms put in place, and reporting processes standardised.

The planning and setting up of activities under relevant themes, and ensuring adequate follow-up, should be strong concerns of the APGC and SOM.

ASEM has robust horizontal linkages between the three ASEM pillars; and strong vertical linkages between the different tracks (government, academia and civil society) of ASEM connectivity. ASEM and the APGC can use this strength to create a clear framework for ASEM activities that will ensure coordination among coordinating countries, the host country and organisations, and can facilitate a steady flow of activities that produce tangible thematic results.

The Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF) attends many Track 1.5 ASEM events and meetings, but its role in organising these activities is not clear, either from event/meeting-related documents, or from the ASEF Annual Report.

**Track 2 – Academia youth, artists, journalists, parliamentarians and issue-based specialists**

ASEM’s Track 2 activities are more intermittent than Track 1.5, and usually involve only a limited number of people. They include problem- or issue-oriented conferences, seminars, workshops and lecture-type events.

ASEF is instrumental in organising Track 2 activities.

The Asia–Europe Young Leaders Summit (ASYLS) stands out as an annual and regular Track 2 activity.

ASEF organised journalists’ and editors’ forums are other examples of Track 2 activities.

ASEM Summit Statements recognise Track 2 activities as contributions to ministerial meetings and ASEM processes.

The ASEF Annual Report to the ASEM Summit lists the Track 2 activities conducted in a reporting year. The 2017 Annual Report covered culture, education, governance, sustainable development and public health.

The sustainability of these activities’ outcomes and their potential for upscaling are not always mentioned.

ASEM’s economic and political pillars are not adequately addressed in ASEM Track 2 activities.

ASEF activities and their outcomes are not listed on the ASEF Infoboard. They can be accessed through ASEF’s website and are listed in ASEF’s Annual Report. Guidance or policy direction for ASEM from these activities is not found prominently in the report.

**V. SWOT Analysis**

**Strengths**

- ASEM is widely recognised as a platform for Europe Asia connectivity
- Formalised structures of ASEM activity produce focused results relevant to ASEM connectivity
- ASEM has robust linkages among the three pillars of ASEM activities and between ASEM pillars and different tracks (government, academia, civil society)
- ASEM has a wide geographic stretch and its programmes reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific
- The ASEM is informal and flexible so that, in principle, it can easily address new aspects or challenges related to connectivity.

**Weaknesses**

- ASEM activities are not consistently and completely updated on the ASEF Infoboard: hampering the monitoring of results, outcomes of activities and public awareness
- Stand-alone activities dilute the focus, impact and sustainability of connectivity efforts
- Fewer activities exist on several topics that are crucial for the future of ASEM connectivity – including energy, the digital economy, financial management and cooperation
- ASEM’s capacity to draw concrete action points from Track 1.5 activities (ASEF forums) is limited
- It is not possible to assess the access to or participation of citizens in ASEM connectivity activities.

**Opportunities**

- The time is right: governments across the globe recognise connectivity’s growing importance
- Political momentum: Ministerial and SOM meetings for transport, economy and finance welcome APGC formation and expect to link their work to the APGC’s work
- More financing opportunities are made available by individual governments, regional and multilateral institutions
- SDGs give new impetus to interlink and connect activities across the three ASEM pillars
- Rationalisation of connectivity-related activities can enhance Asia–Europe connectivity
- Social media outreach may enhance visibility and awareness and strengthen people-to-people connectivity
- Lessons learned from multilateral development banks and institutions may be synthesised for practical use in the Asia–Europe connectivity context

**Threats**

- Normative and political differences in approaches to connectivity in theory and practice may add to friction between ASEM partners
- ACEF 2000 principles of mutual interest and mutual benefit may be undermined, as activities do not benefit all members. Sub-regional activities should respond to real needs
- Financing of connectivity plans and growing debts may undermine longer-term connectivity planning
- Some ASEM partners lack administrative capacity to turn the results of ASEM activities into policies
VI. Recommendations and Follow-Up

Actions for the APGC

The APGC has a unique role in steering ASEM’s activities closer to the definition and key principles of ASEM connectivity. Its role in advising the SOM on how to mainstream connectivity into ASEM activities and how to streamline mechanisms can be further strengthened by identifying flagship activities in each ASEM pillar; deepening institutional support for these activities; streamlining the outcome processes and ensuring their effectiveness; coordinating the strategy and role allocation; eliminating rudimentary activities; creating interlinkages with the works of multilateral bodies in Asia and Europe; and ensuring diversity and accountability in the programmes.

Based on the findings of this Inventory, it is recommended to identify focus areas of ASEM connectivity and put in place a streamlined mechanism to enhance ASEM connectivity. An important step towards this end was taken with the intended adoption of the 5 focus areas for ‘Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the Field of Connectivity’ (TACC), identified at the June 2018 meeting of the APGC and SOM.

Taking this forward, the work plan should be monitored by the SOM and the APGC, and reported to the ministerial meetings of Transport, Education, Economy, Finance, Culture and Tourism. Streamlined documentation, organisation and reporting of TACC activities are crucial for ASEM connectivity.

Finally, a revamped ASEM Infoboard has a crucial role to play in disseminating ASEM connectivity activities.

Defining connectivity and adding focus

- ASEM should focus on making ASEM connectivity relevant and useful for governments and people. The ACEF 2000 lays down the wider principles of ASEM and the APGC has defined connectivity for the ASEM.
- ASEM connectivity activities must be able to contribute to policy processes in member countries.
- The APGC has a role to play in ensuring that activities fit into the definition of connectivity and produce substantive results or add value to the key principles of connectivity.
- Focus areas for ASEM connectivity activities should address practicality, cost-effectiveness, and contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inclusive growth.

Special tasks from ministerial meetings

- Transport ministers, economic ministers, and education ministers have spelled out specific tasks for the APGC to interconnect the three ASEM pillars. These tasks must be integrated into the focus areas of ASEM connectivity. Some of the important ministerial recommendations under the economic and financial pillar – such as the Trade Facilitation Agreement Plan (TFAP), ASEM Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP), ASEM Eurasia Expert Group (AEEG) and ASEM think tanks’ work on feasibility studies of synergy in transport plans – need to be addressed.
- An inventory of the formal ASEM-mechanisms – such as the Education Secretariats (hosted by Indonesia and Belgium), the ASEM Infoboard (managed by ASEF), and the Steering Committee of the Informal Human Rights Seminar – can be carried out with a view to analysing their effectiveness, strengthening their accountability, and utilising the outcomes of their activities in the 5 focus areas for TACC.

Diversity of themes and uneven outcomes

- The diversity in and uneven outcomes of ASEM connectivity activities should be managed through a careful selection of themes, better coordination among countries, a shared sense of direction, and follow-up and monitoring of results.
- Physical connectivity activities – including energy, the digital economy, financial management and cooperation – are relatively few in number, especially in Europe. To the extent that this showcases a gap between the real needs of people and ASEM activities, this point should be addressed as a matter of priority.
Diversity in participation

- ASEM activities in the social and cultural pillar require a greater diversity of participants and outreach to larger groups of stakeholders and participants.
- Participants in education exchange programmes, summer universities and youth leadership summits, etc., appear to be selected from a limited pool of citizens and are not widely known across Asia. Provision of details on participants to Infoboard should be made mandatory to ascertain the true reach and diversity of activities among the people. Similarly, transparency in the selection of institutions, teachers and students through a wider dissemination of programmes is very important.
- The data show that ASEM activities create interlinkages, but mostly among people who are already informed on ASEM activities. ASEM activities must ensure a regional spread in Western and Southern Europe, Southwest Asia and Oceania, which are underrepresented in ASEM activities.

Multilateral organisations and ASEM

- ASEM connectivity will be strengthened by importing the lessons of multilateral organisations – like the IMF, World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Central Bank and the ASEAN+3 Multilateral Research Organisation (AMRO) – into its activities, without having to reinvent the wheel. These organisations have best practices and the (technical) know-how to contribute to ASEM’s economic and political objectives, as well as to sustainable development, financial management and cooperation activities.
- Conversely, ASEM can share its lessons with other multilateral organisations, including with newer institutions such as the AIIB and NDB. ASEM can also provide meaningful inputs to the G20 Sherpa process.

Other global compacts and ASEM

- ASEM should have a voice in other global compacts, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action, etc. The ASEM 12 theme of ‘Global Partners for Global Challenges’ justifies this outreach to global programmes.

Nurturing non-ASEM mechanisms of Asia–Europe connectivity

- The Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) and the EU-ARISE programme in ASEAN are fine examples of Asia–Europe connectivity, whose results should feed into the ASEM concept of connectivity. The APGC can draw inputs from such connectivity programmes between Asia and Europe and seek value addition for ASEM connectivity activities.

VII. The Way Forward

In June 2018 the APGC and SOM agreed to work towards 5 focus areas for ‘Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the Field of Connectivity’ (TACC) to bring necessary focus and spur interest among ASEM members’ activities for enhanced cooperation in the field of connectivity.

Focus areas

- Sustainable connectivity
- Future connectivity
- Trade and investment connectivity
- People-to-people connectivity
- Security challenges linked to connectivity

Building on the recommendations in part 5 of this report and with a view to realising the APGC and SOM’s tasks in focus areas for TACC, an ASEM Connectivity Organigram has been developed to rationalise, coordinate and disseminate connectivity-related activities in ASEM.

This ASEM Connectivity Organigram outlines the linkages between the various ASEM processes (Summits, Ministerial meetings and SOMs) with the co-chairs of the APGC as well as with host countries/host organisations and other multilateral institutions. It also suggests how connectivity-related activities and their outcomes may be monitored and synchronized, and in turn fed into ASEM ministerial meetings and summit mechanisms. To keep ASEM connectivity activities relevant and in tune with policy needs of member countries, the TACC mechanism proposes regular monitoring and updating of activities by the co-chairs of APGC to the SOM and other relevant ASEM processes. If ASEM partners so decide, a TACC ‘coordination unit’ could support the APGC co-chairs’ activities, analogous to the ASEM Education Secretariat.

ASEM plays a crucial role in advancing connectivity in the Asia-Europe region, and with the global community outside ASEM. Therefore, this Inventory also recommends that ASEM exchanges best practices and outcomes from the relevant focus areas of the TACC with other global and regional programmes that have substantial influence on ASEM members. All sides stand to benefit also from greater alignment between ASEM activities and established non-ASEM connectivity programmes between Asia and Europe such as TIEN and EU-ARISE.

A streamlined and more focused effort on working for tangible areas of connectivity cooperation is the best way forward for the APGC, SOM, and ASEM overall.
Advancing connectivity in ASEM

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently, it brings together 51 countries from Europe and Asia, plus the EU and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Since the 10th ASEM Summit in October 2014, ASEM set out to enhance Europe-Asia connectivity to further economic prosperity and sustainable development. ASEM connectivity is about physical infrastructure, institutional linkages and people-to-people ties. It covers all the three pillars of ASEM: economic, political and sociocultural.

Main Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Number of Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Economic cooperation</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Research</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable development</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Tourism</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights and Development</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT/ Digital / Technology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connectivity on the agenda

139 activities covered one or more connectivity pillars.

Physical

- 176 activities
- 7 Host countries
- 22 Outreach activities
- 39 Official meetings
- 44 Summits

Institutional

- 28 Europe
- 55 Asia

People to people

- 17 Europe
- 35 Asia

When was connectivity discussed?

48 activities out of a total of 139 activities excluding ASEM Day celebrations.

Output

- 37 activities resulted in one or more outcome documents.
- 17 Declarations
- 5 Joint initiatives
- 9 Final reports
- 9 Press releases

ASEM Pillars & Activities

124 out of 139 activities covered one or more pillar.

ASEM Pillars

- Economic
- Financial
- 70
- Social
- Cultural
- 57
- Political
- 27

ASEM Days

- 25 Europe
- 11 Asia

ASEM Activity

- 23 Europe
- 64 Asia

ASEM Forum

- 3

DG-Officials’ Meeting

- 4 Europe
- 6 Asia

Senior Officials’ Meeting

- 13 Europe
- 12 Asia

Ministerial Meeting

- 7 Europe
- 6 Asia

Summits

- 1

When did activities take place?

Total of 176 activities

- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018

Number and type of event per region

- ASEM Days
- ASEM Activity
- ASEM Forum
- DG-Officials’ Meeting
- Senior Officials’ Meeting
- Ministerial Meeting
- Summits

ASEM Summit Follow up and Preparations

Education and Research

VIII. Infographics

*Data presented here draw on the ASEM Connectivity Inventory built by the Clingendael Institute and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), making use of publicly available data on ASEM Infoboard (June 2018).

The country where an event is held (host country) and the organising country are not necessarily the same in some exceptional cases, events are co-organised or co-sponsored by a second country. This report counts events according to their location, not according to the organising country. Hence, co-organising or sponsoring countries are not reflected in the numbers, infographics (p. 18 & 19), map (p. 20), database (Annex II) and lists of ASEM Days (p. 48 & 49) of this report.
Annex I

ASEM Connectivity Organigram: a mechanism to further Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the field of connectivity (TACC)

Multilateral Bodies
G 20, OECD, WB, EIB, ESM, AIIB, ADB, CMI-ML etc.

Global Compacts
SDG 2030, COP 21, SENDAI, etc.

Ministerial Meetings
Transport, Economy, Finance, Security, Education, Culture, Tourism

Senior Officials Meeting

APGC Co - Chair Countries (EU, China, Japan)

TACC Coordination Unit
Sustainable Connectivity Future Connectivity Trade and Investment People to People Security Challenges

Streamlining of Processes
- Prepare a calendar of activities annually (by January)
- Develop a shared framework for reporting of activities (review annually)
- List of documents to be shared:
  - concept note, administrative arrangements
  - programme / agenda / list of participants
  - participants affiliations, profiles (age, gender, organization, work)
  - reports, output, statements
  - summary of reports and policy recommendation to ASEM Ministerial Meetings
  - feedback of summit and ministerial directions to SOM, APGC
- Disperse TACC outcomes to multilateral institutions and global compacts
- Streamline and strengthen ASEM Infoboard’s information-sharing function
- Implement recommendations of ASEM Summit and Ministerial Meetings

Voluntary activities by ASEM members

ASEM Education Secretariat

ASEF activities

Other formal programmes

Events on connectivity/total number of events

25 ASEM Days
48 activities

11 ASEM Days
92 activities
ASEM Connectivity Inventory Database

**Austria**

Austrian Council (ASEM SOM) for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM SOM12) & 4th Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC4)

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Connectivity

**Documents: IiP, Institutional**

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**Austria**

ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM1) for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) & 4th Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC4)

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**Documents: Agenda, Final Report**

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**South Korea**

Opening Ceremony and International Seminar of ASEM Global Ageing Center

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Human Rights and Development

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) & 4th Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC4)**

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Sustainability Development

**Documents:** Agenda, Final Report

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**Vietnam**

ASEM Conference on Climate Action to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals - Ways Forward

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Sustainability Development

**Documents:** Agenda, Final Report

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**Thailand**

ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (DUO-Thailand) – Call for Applications

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Education and Research

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**Switzerland**

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting Retreat (ASEM SOM-R)

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** ICT / Digital Connectivity

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**Singapore**

ASEM Conference on "Green Shipping: Blue Business. Moving Forward Together"

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Transport

**Documents:** Agenda, Final Report

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic–Financial

**Laos**

ASEM Seminar on "Lao PDR Activities on ASEM and Mekong-Lancang Cooperation"

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Sustainable Development

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic–Financial

**Bulgaria**

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for the 8th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM8)

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Connectivity

**Documents:** Final Report

**ASEM Pillars:** Institutional

**Bulgaria**

13th ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FinMM13)

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Finance

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic–Financial

**Singapore**

ASEM Seminar on "Implementation of Society 5.0 for the 4.0 Industrial Revolution and the Regional Collaboration to Cope with the 4.0 Industrial Revolution and the Implementation of Society 5.0 for Reaching Sustainable Development Goals"

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** ICT / Digital Connectivity

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

**Laos**

ASEM Seminar on "ASEM Activities on ASEM and Mekong-Lancang Cooperation"

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Sustainable Development

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic–Financial

**Bulgaria**

ASEM Seminar on "ASEM Activities on ASEM and Mekong-Lancang Cooperation"

**Type Of Event:** ASEM Activity

**TOPIC:** Sustainable Development

**Documents:** Practical Information

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic–Financial
2018-04-25/26 Latvia
ASEM Technical and Vocational Education and Training Seminar

**TYPE OF EVENT**
AEM activity

**TOPIC**
Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
People-to-people

AEM PILLARS Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The goal of the seminar is to exchange the best practices on TVET policies in ASEM countries through dialogue, specifically focusing on presenting examples of involvement of industry in TVET planning, education and training process, skills development, and international cooperation.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training-seminar

2018-04-16 - 2018-05-21 Sweden
2018 ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (DUO-Sweden) – Call for Applications

**TYPE OF EVENT**
AEM activity

**TOPIC**
Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
People-to-people

AEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme was established in 2010 with the aim of promoting exchanges of people between Sweden and Asian countries.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-duo-sweden-fellowship-programme-duo-sweden-call-applications

2018-04-02 - 2018-05-14 South Korea
2018 ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (DUO-Korea) – Call for Applications

**TYPE OF EVENT**
AEM activity

**TOPIC**
Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
People-to-people

AEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme was established in 2001 with the aim of promoting exchanges of people between Korea and 25 European countries on a balanced and permanent basis. In this respect, DUO-Korea requires that a PAIR (two persons) of students be exchanged in the framework of a cooperative project.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-duo-korea-fellowship-programme-duo-korea-call-applications

2018-03-28/30 China
5th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety

**TYPE OF EVENT**
AEM activity

**TOPIC**
Defence and Security

**DOCUMENTS**
Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Institutional

AEM PILLARS Nuclear

With the theme of “Translating Commitments into Actions: Addressing Nuclear Safety Challenges in the 21st Century”, the main purpose of the 5th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety is to provide a platform to continue discussions on the most prominent topics on nuclear safety identified by the previous seminars as well as the nuclear industry, so as to promote exchanges and cooperation among ASEM members.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-seminar-nuclear-safety

2018-03-01/02 Bulgaria
8th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM8)

**TYPE OF EVENT**
Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC**
Culture and Tourism

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
People-to-people

AEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

The main output of this event is:
- Supporting culture as an engine for social and economic development
- Promoting culture and inter-cultural dialogue for peaceful inter-community relations
- Reinforcing cooperation on cultural heritage

The 8th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM8) was held 1–2 March 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria. More information will be posted once available.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/8th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-duo-korea-call-applications

2018-02-28 Indonesia
ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Jakarta

**TYPE OF EVENT**
AEM activity

**TOPIC**
Culture and Tourism

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
People-to-people

AEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

ASEM PILLARS Economic-Financial

High-Level Symposium was aimed to further deepen the discussion on promoting tourism through promotion and investment as a way of strengthening connectivity between Asia and Europe. The Symposium emphasized that tourism is an engine for growth and decent job creation, as well as a crucial tool to enhance people-to-people connectivity.

Promoting investment in tourism is significantly important, which was confirmed by all participants.

Tourism Promotion policy of both governments, including stand tourism, were discussed.

Japan and Indonesia held the “ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Jakarta” on 28 February 2018 at the AVANA Mc Plaza Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia on the occasion of pre-celebrating the ASEM Day, 1 March 2018.

The Symposium was aimed to further deepen the discussion on promoting tourism through promotion and investment as a way of strengthening connectivity between Asia and Europe.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-on-promoting-tourism-in-jakarta

2017-12-15 / 2018-04-02 Belgium
2018 ASEM DUO-Belgium/Flanders Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications

**TYPE OF EVENT**
AEM activity

**TOPIC**
Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information

AEM PILLARS People-to-people

ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

The Programme aims to:
- Promote balanced increase of student, teacher and professor contact and exchanges between Europe and Asia.
- Contribute to setting up regular-basis exchange programmes between European and Asian tertiary institutions.
- Establish deeper understanding between two regions.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders Fellowship Programme was established in 2011 with the aim of promoting exchanges of students between Belgium/Flanders and 4 Asian countries (China, India, South Korea and Vietnam) on a balanced and permanent basis. In this respect, DUO-Belgium/Flanders requires that a PAIR (two persons) of students will be exchanged in the framework of a cooperative project.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-duo-belgium-flanders-fellowship-programme-call-applications

2017-12-05/06 Belgium
3rd ASEM Forum on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM Forum

**TOPIC**
ICT / Digital / Technology

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Institutional

AEM PILLARS Economic-Financial

In order to connect Asia and Europe with regards to science and innovation, ASEM Cooperation Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation has been established. This meeting included three aspects, namely:

1. ASEM-CCSTI work system setup, and future development planning.
2. Regional collaborative innovation case study.
3. Asia-Europe scientific and technological innovation, and technology transfer.

The 3rd ASEM Forum on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation will take place in Beijing International Convention Centre on 28 November 2017, containing an opening ceremony, a working conference, parallel sessions, B2B project docking, etc.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-forum-cooperation-science-technology-and-innovation

2017-11-21/12 China
6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6)

**TYPE OF EVENT**
Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC**
Trade and Economic Cooperation

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Institutional

AEM PILLARS Economic-Financial

In this meeting, the importance of enhancing connectivity between Asia and Europe through all dimensions of education. The quality Assurance and recognition has been discussed in order to deepen information exchange and understanding of the differences between educational systems. Secondly, the Ministers discussed employability. Thirdly, the internationalization of students between the two continents has been discussed as the amount of Asian students going to Europe is 15 times higher. Lastly, they discussed lifelong learning, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiative has been discussed and should continuously be supported.

As characterised by its nature of impartiality, networking and flexibility, the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME) offers an unique platform for cooperation in education between and within Asia and Europe. Focusing on dialogue and mutual understanding based on common perspectives between the two regions, ASEM education cooperation has constantly evolved during the past 10 years. We are now facing a new decade ahead of us.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-me6
2017/11/20 South Korea
2nd ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM M6E

2017/11-17/19 Myanmar
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FMM13

2017/10-25/26 Malaysia
ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation

2017/10-25/26 Laos
6th ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

2017/10-20/21 Myanmar
13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13)

2017/10-16/17 Germany
12th ASEM Customs DG-Commissioners’ Meeting

2017/10-11/17 China
ASEM Seminar on All-Dimensional Support to the Financing of SMEs

2017/09-28/29 Cambodia
14th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows

2017/09-26/28 Indonesia
4th ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TMM4)

2017/09-19/21 South Korea
2nd ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2017/09-21/22 South Korea
7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7)
2017-09-14/15 2nd ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Human Rights and Development
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial, Political, Social-Cultural
The meeting reaffirmed the 3 pillars for future ASEM disability cooperation, advancing social development, promoting human rights and steering economic growth. To continue concerted efforts on enhancing ASEM disability cooperation, China hosted the 2nd ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability on 14-15 September 2017 in Beijing. The 2nd ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability reviewed efforts on Disability cooperation among ASEM members. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-working-group-smeas-economic-innovation-cooperation

2017-09-07/08 Myanmar ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FMM 13
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda
The ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM 13) was held on 7-8 September 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-meeting-asem-som-3

2017-09-06 Myanmar 2nd Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional, People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS: Political
The 2nd Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) was held on Wednesday, 6 September 2017, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The 1st Meeting was held on 21 June 2017 in Brussels, Belgium, prior to the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM 13). www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc

2017-06-21 Belgium 1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional, People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS: Political
The 1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) was held on 21 June 2017, in Brussels, Belgium. The 1st ASEM Summit (ASEM11) in July 2016, at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, ASEM Leaders agreed that increased focus in ASEM activities on connectivity will contribute to the relevance of ASEM. They also agreed to establish a Pathfinder Group on Connectivity for a term of 2 years. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc

2017-06-23/25 Belgium ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FMM13
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations
Document: Practical information, Agenda
The ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM 13) was held on 22-23 June 2017, in Brussels, Belgium. The European External Action Service (EEAS) in partnership with Friends of Europe also held a public conference on “ASEM in a fast-changing world” as a side event of the ASEM SOM on Wednesday, 21 June 2017. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-sum-asem-fmm13

2017-05-26/27 Portugal 4th ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4)
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Sustainable Development
DOCUMENTS: Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Initiative
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Political, Social-Cultural
ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial
The panellists shared their experiences in achieving the SDGs in both national and regional levels. Sustainable strategy and prioritisation, national mechanism to engage with stakeholders, statistical collection as framework for SDGs indicators, and the ASEM process toward SDGs were emphasized and elaborated to drive a nation to sustainability. The ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development held on 25-26 May 2017, in Bangkek, Thailand, has the following objectives: to promote sharing of experiences, best practices and expertise among ASEM Partners and to regard to policy, practices and method for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to provide a platform for networking and forging partnerships among ASEM Partners for future collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs through various approaches. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-inter-regional-partnership-sustainable-development

2017-05-24/27 Lithuania 1st ASEM Conference on Women’s Economic Empowerment
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation
DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Declaration
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PILLARS: Political
The conference focused on successful policies and legal provisions that ASEM partner countries may wish to share with others, institutional mechanisms, including national, regional and local levels that ensure equality and reduce gender gaps in political, economic, corporate and public life, women leaders and achievers who empower other women to work, to challenge reconciliation policies and incentives to choose “non-traditional” spheres such as IT for women and nursing, care and teaching for men. The 1st ASEM Conference on Women’s Economic Empowerment and on Creating Equal Opportunities in the World of Work was held on 25-26 May 2017 at the Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-conference-womens-economic-empowerment

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: ICT / Digital / Technology
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Initiative
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional
ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial
In conclusion, they stated that digital technologies in particular, have spread rapidly, connected and deeply transformed the world to an unprecedented level. By creating new business opportunities and significantly reducing the costs of transactions and transplantation, digital connectivity proves to be a key force driving growth, creating jobs and promoting innovation. Digital connectivity has recently emerged as a new area of interest and cooperation among ASEM members. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MITI), and the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of China as well as the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the Seminar gathered a wide range of participants, including government officials, business representatives, researchers and experts, as well as from related regional and international organizations. The goal was to bring together policy-makers and professional practices www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-high-level-forum-digital-connectivity-unleashing-potential-innovative-growth

2017-05-25/26 India Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Education and Research
DOCUMENTS: Draft concept paper / discussion paper
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS: Social-Cultural
The objective of the course is to enhance awareness about issues in diplomacy today and would include an introduction to various facets of India’s foreign policy. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has offered an intensive 1-week course on “Diplomacy and Foreign Policy – An Indian Perspective” for diplomats from ASEM Partners, From 19-25 July 2017, in New Delhi, India. The course is the 3rd edition of the successful week-long courses conducted in June 2016 and March 2015. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/foreign-policy-module-asem-diplomats-0

2017-05-25/26 Thailand ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Sustainable Development
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions, Press release
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial
The panellists shared their experiences in achieving the SDGs in both national and regional levels. Sustainable strategy and prioritisation, national mechanism to engage with stakeholders, statistical collection as framework for SDGs, and the ASEM process toward SDGs were emphasized and elaborated to drive a nation to sustainability. The ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development held on 25-26 May 2017, in Bangkok, Thailand, has the following objectives: promote sharing of experiences, best practices and expertise among ASEM Partners and regarding policy, practices and method for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to provide a platform for networking and foring partnerships among ASEM Partners for future collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs through various approaches. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-inter-regional-partnership-sustainable-development

2017-05-24/27 Portugal 4th ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4)
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Sustainable Development
DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Declaration
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PILLARS: Political
ASEM Governors and Mayors agreed that political cooperation is of fundamental importance, and cooperation should be reinforced through institutional and technical cooperation at a local level. Exchange of knowledge should continue through international platforms or bilateral exchanges between city members of ASEM-MGM. The 4th ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4) was held from 24-27 May 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal, under the theme, “Mobility, Sustainability and Migration.” www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm4
will be presented for discussion and adoption during the met. They also prepared proposals for future actions, which development and called for enhancing education and youth

entrepreneurship.

society, equal opportunities for quality learning, especially that more focus should be on building inclusive learning development and called for enhancing education and youth labour market outcomes through reforms and investment in human resource development. Participants agreed that more focus should be on building inclusive learning society, equal opportunities for quality learning, especially for the disadvantaged groups, developing employability skills for the 21st century to foster youth employment and entrepreneurship.


2017-04-28 South Korea

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOMTI13)

TYPE OF EVENT: DG-Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: Institutional

ASEM PILARS: Political

In order to discuss the preliminary results of the cooperation activities under the current ASEM Customs action plan, they met. They also prepared proposals for future actions, which will be presented for discussion and adoption during the meeting of Customs Directors General in October 2017 in Berlin. In the context of visibility, participants agreed on the need of clear message to relevant stakeholders on custom role and involvement in ASEM activities all the more that the leading theme of ASEM is connectivity of which custom is the part of by nature

The National Revenue Administration of Poland hosted the 11th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) on 26-27 April 2017, in Sopot, Poland. More than 60 representatives of Customs Administrations from ASEM partner countries, the European Union, and the observer, World Customs Organisation met. www.aseminfofa.org/events/11th-asem-working-group-customs-matters

2017-04-25 Poland

8th ASEM Customs-Trade Day

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: Physical

ASEM PILARS: Economic–Financial

The National Revenue Administration of Poland hosted the 8th ASEM Customs Trade Day on 25 April 2017 in Sopot, Poland. The event focused on the phenomenon of E-Commerce.

www.aseminfofa.org/events/8th-asem-customs-trade-day

2017-04-18 / - 05-24 Sweden

2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Education and Research

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILARS: Socio-Cultural

The Programme aims to:

- Promote balanced increase of student, teacher and professor contact and exchanges between Europe and Asia

- Contribute to setting up regular-basis exchange programmes between European and Asian tertiary institutions

- Establish deeper understanding between two regions

2017-04-10 / 05-16 South Korea

2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Education and Research

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILARS: Socio-Cultural

The Programme aims to:

- Promote balanced increase of student, teacher and professor contact and exchanges between Europe and Asia

- Contribute to setting up regular-basis exchange programmes between European and Asian tertiary institutions

- Establish deeper understanding between two regions

The 2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme – Korea opened its call for applications from 10 April-16 May 2017 www.aseminfofa.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-0

2017-02-15 / - 04-15 Belgium

2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Education and Research

DOCUMENTS: Practical information

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILARS: Socio-Cultural

The Programme aims to:

- Promote balanced increase of student, teacher and professor contact and exchanges between Europe and Asia

- Contribute to setting up regular-basis exchange programmes between European and Asian tertiary institutions

- Establish deeper understanding between two regions

The 2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme was open to applications until 15 April 2017.

www.aseminfofa.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-0

2017-02-13 Myanmar

ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Culture and Tourism

DOCUMENTS: Agenda

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: Institutional, People-to-people

ASEM PILARS: Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

The focus on the importance of tourism marketing, such as tourism branding and world heritage promotion, was key to this meeting.

Japan held the ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism on 15 February 2017, at the Embassy of Japan in Yangon, Myanmar. The event was co-sponsored by the Government of Myanmar, the host country for the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMH/3), in 2017.

www.aseminfofa.org/events/asem-symposium-promoting-tourism-0

2017-02-13 India

11th ASEM TEIN Cooperation Centre Governors’ Meeting

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: ICT / Digital Technology

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: Physical, Institutional

ASEM PILARS: Economic–Financial

11th ASEM Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) Cooperation Centre Governors’ Meeting.

www.aseminfofa.org/events/11th-asem-tein-cooperation-center-governors-meeting

2017-02-04 India

ASEM Workshop on Diagnostics Technologies

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: ICT / Digital Technology

DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Press release

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: Institutional

ASEM PILARS: Economic–Financial

In this meeting it was highlighted that the inclusion of healthcare in the ASEM agenda would go a long way in addressing the health related problems in the region where Diabetes and other Non-Communicable Diseases have great potential in hindering the growth pathways of economy in a significant manner.

Technologies for Diagnostics has been identified as one of the 20 areas for tangible cooperation under ASEM. In this context, the Ministry of External Affairs of India, in association with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, is organising an ASEM Workshop on Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts on 6-7 February 2017 in New Delhi.

www.aseminfofa.org/events/asem-workshop-techniques-instruments-conservation-monuments-artefacts

2016-12-02 South Korea

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOMTI12)

TYPE OF EVENT: DG-Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILARS: Socio-Cultural

ASEM activity

The two days technical sessions have highlighted the strengths as well as the further requirement in the field of techniques and equipment used in conservation of monuments. The panel discussions featured subjects such as Advancements in Art Conservation and Training, use of Modern Technology for Cultural Heritage and Acquired Knowledge of Conservation Paraphernalia.

Conservation of cultural heritage is a crucial area that merits urgent attention worldwide. In this context, the Ministry of External Affairs of India, in association with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, is organizing an ASEM Workshop on Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts on 6-7 February 2017 in New Delhi.

www.aseminfofa.org/events/asem-workshop-techniques-instruments-conservation-monuments-artefacts

2017-02-06/07 India

ASEM Workshop on Techniques & Instruments for Conservation of Monuments & Artefacts

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Culture and Tourism

DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Press release

CONNECTIVITY PILARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILARS: Socio-Cultural

ASEM activity

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www.aseminfofa.org/events/asem-workshop-techniques-instruments-conservation-monuments-artefacts
Senior Officials recognized that there is growing uncertainty in the trade and investment environment, including a wave of protectionism. They discussed the necessity of revising and complementing the previously adopted TTP and IRAE. The Foreign Ministry of Korea, together with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea, hosted the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOM12) on 2 December 2016 in Seoul, Korea. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials%2012

2016-12-01/03 Bulgaria
5th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue: Water Nexus Agenda for the 3rd ASEM Decade

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Sustainable Development
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial, Political

The participants outlined the common challenges faced by Asia and Europe and called for sharing experience and best practices. They emphasized the vital role of effective water management in the efforts to engage in sustainable development, green growth and reversing the effects of climate change within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscored the importance of transboundary cooperation for achieving these ambitious goals.

The event is part of the annual series in the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue (the Danube-Mekong cooperation initiative), launched by Hungary upon consultations with ASEM partners in 2012. Bulgaria is a co-organizer together with Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Viet Nam, Laos PDR, and Thailand. Under the motto, “Dedicated to connect: 20 Years of Asia-Europe Meeting”, the 5th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue was organized as one of the events marking the 20th anniversary of ASEM in 2016.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-water-nexus-agenda-5th-asem-decade

2016-11-09/19 South Korea
1st ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting for ASEM M6G

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting
TOPIC: Education and Research
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Surveys / Annexes
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM Pillars: Socio-Cultural

ASEM education ministers agreed on four priority areas within the ASEM Education Process for balanced, smart, sustainable and inclusive development:

A. quality assurance and recognition,
B. engaging business and industry in education,
C. balanced mobility,
D. lifelong learning including technical and vocational education and training

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea hosted the 1st ASEM Education Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM M6G) on 9-10 November 2016, in Seoul, Korea. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-senior-officials-meeting-asm6g

2016-10-27/28 Vietnam
ASEM Conference on Green Skills for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Sustainable Development
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial, Political

During the discussions, participants shared their common understanding that Green Growth certainly means not only higher efficiency in a technological sense, but also re-organization, re-structuring, de-carbonization, local initiatives and soft skills of responsible citizens and entrepreneurs, underscored the nexus of green skills and sustainable and inclusive growth.

The ASEM Conference on Green Skills for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth – a joint initiative by China, Cyprus, Italy, Laos, Romania, Switzerland and Viet Nam, was organized in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 27-28 October 2016. The event was endorsed by ASEM Leaders at the 10th ASEM Summit held in Milan in October 2016.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-green-skills-sustainable-and-inclusive-growth-0

2016-10-25/29 Indonesia
1st ASEM Youth Entrepreneurial Meeting: Passion-Preneurs’ Challenge Towards 20 Years of ASEM

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

1. Increased public awareness of the existence and role of ASEM and Indonesia’s leadership in ASEM, especially in the area of cooperation of people-to-people contact among youth of ASEM member countries.
2. Strengthened ASEM connectivity, through the establishment of networks between youth of ASEM member countries.

Indonesia held the ASEM Passion-preneur Challenge in Jakarta, on 25-29 October 2016. This first Seminar was aimed at exploring interest and potential interest-based entrepreneurship and creativity driven by social mission (Passion-preneurs) among young ASEM in order to combat social problem and/or creating more social impact.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-youth-entrepreneurial-meeting-passion-preneurs-challenge-towards-20-years-asem

2016-10-24/25 Greece
2nd ASEM Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Sustainable Development
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-seminar-cooperation-science-technology-innovation-sustainable-development

2016-10-05/05 Denmark
ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2016

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Education and Research
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM Pillars: Social-Cultural

At the forum, researchers, policymakers and practitioners discussed contemporary possibilities of developing 21st century skills for lifelong learning, key concepts for policies and practices in Asia and Europe and what role researchers and policy makers should play in creating lifelong learning opportunities for all in Asia and Europe.

The ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning, 21ST CENTURY SKILLS was held on 5-5 October 2016 at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University in Copenhagen, Denmark.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-forum-lifelong-learning-2016

2016-09-14/15 Vietnam
ASEM Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: Innovation and Technology for Resilience-based Sustainable Development

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
TOPIC: Disaster Management / Resilience
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial

Participants discussed and proposed a number of non-binding recommendations to enhance the cooperation between ASEM partners in DRM, including:
1. Science and Technology for effective and transparent decision-making and policy-making in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.
2. Strengthening Asia – Europe cooperation and dialogue on innovative tools for resilience-based sustainable development.
3. Innovative Disaster Risk Reduction Financing for Sustainable Development.

On 14-15 September 2016, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam jointly held the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: Innovation and Technology for Resilience-based Sustainable Development.


2016-07-13/14 Mongolia
15th Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF15)

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM Forum
TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Declaration, Press release

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional, People-to-people

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial

The business leaders agreed to provide strong impetus to boost investment to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth and bring together policies and actions to improve the investment environment, support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and promote knowledge sharing.

The Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) is a meeting of business leaders from Asia and Europe, created by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to strengthen economic cooperation between the business sectors of the two regions.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/15th-asia-europe-business-forum-aebf15

2016-07-12/14 Mongolia
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM11

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting
TOPIC: ASEM SOM follow-up and preparations
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

The 11th Asia Europe People’s Forum (AEBF11) tackled seven major themes focusing on developing strategies and recommendations to our elected representatives in our countries, and to ourselves, as active citizens.

ASEM Senior Officials met on 12-14 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to prepare for the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11). The ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) was attended by officials from the 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-38

2016-07-11/16 Mongolia
Summits

TYPE OF EVENT: Summits
TOPIC: Human Rights and Development
—> CONNECTIVITY
DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Declaration, Chair’s statement, Press release

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional, People-to-people

ASEM Pillars: Economic-Financial, Political, Socio-Cultural

The ASEM11 Summit has two plenary sessions under the topics of “Two decades of partnership: taking stock and looking forward” and “Promoting ASEM partnership for greater connectivity”. Session One will assess the 20 years’ experience of political dialogue, economic cooperation and socio-cultural exchange. At the second session, discussions will continue on developing both ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ connectivity between Asia and Europe.
The day’s ministerial meeting concentrated on discussions on quality infrastructure investments, cross-border infrastructure and transport, and broad approach to financial stability, while delegates also called for closer attention to policy restructure, increased numbers of bilateral engagements, and digital connectivity for forward-looking developments. And in the meeting the importance of digital connectivity had been emphasized.

The ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FinMM) is an integral element of the ASEM process. Earlier ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meetings have pursued a dialogue on matters of common interest, in such fields as exchanging views concerning the global economic outlook, the international financial architecture, the more effective implementation of existing supervisory principles and regulations in the financial sector, combating money laundering, and strengthening cooperation in the field of customs.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-finance-ministers-meeting-finmm12

2016-05/13

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

ASEM Senior Officials Meeting on 1-2 May 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to discuss the future of ASEM, the ASEM 20th anniversary celebrations, and other issues related to preparations for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM11), including discussions on the draft Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Chair’s Statement. The ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (ASEM SOM) was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-36

2016-05/09

ASEM Media Dialogue on Connectivity

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: ASEM activity

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

ASEM Media Dialogue on Connectivity in Beijing on 9 May 2016, to discuss and analyze the current status of connectivity and how it can be sustained and expanded.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-media-dialogue-on-connectivity

2016-04/27

Brunei

10th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC)

TYPE OF EVENT: DG-Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC: Trade and Economic Cooperation

 DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

The ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) Meeting in Brunei Darussalam on 27-28 April 2016 to discuss and analyze the current status of ASEM customs cooperation and how it can be sustained and expanded.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/10th-meeting-asem-working-group-customs-matters-awc

2016-04/21

Mongolia

9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP9)

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: ASEM activity

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Declaration

The ninth ASEM Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP9) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 21-22 April 2016. The meeting was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/9th-asia-europe-parliamentary-partnership-meeting-asep9

2016-04/08

ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC) and Small & Medium Business Administration (SMA) of the Republic of Korea held the 3rd ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence on 31 May 2016 in Seoul, Korea. The seminar was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-working-group-seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence

2016-02/19

South Korea

ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM Forum

TOPIC: Sustainable Development

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

The ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons was held in Seoul on 20 February 2016. The forum was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-working-group-seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence

2016-02/01

Poland

ASEM Seminar on Education Methodology: How to Teach Europe, How to Teach Asia

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPIC: Education and Research

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

The ASEM Seminar on Education Methodology: How to Teach Europe, How to Teach Asia was held in Poland on 1-2 February 2016. The seminar was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-education-methodology-how-teach-europe-how-teach-asia

2016-01/29

South Korea

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC: ASEM activity

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda

The 5th ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting was held in Korea on 29 January 2016. The meeting was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-34
The events are aimed at enhancing the youth’s understanding of Asia-Europe partnership and the ASEM process, raising awareness among the youth of potential cooperation on poverty eradication, and providing them a platform to take actions in the fight against hunger. The participants can also develop their skills in the fields of negotiation, diplomacy and consensus-building.

The “ASEM Youth Week: Stronger Actions to Address Zero Hunger Challenge” in conjunction with the ‘Model ASEM Ha Noi 2016’ was held in Ha Noi and Ha Long, Vietnam on 31 March – 07 April 2016.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-youth-week-stronger-action-address-zero-hunger-challenge

2016-03-25/26 India

ASEM Youth Dialogue

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Practical information

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

- The expected outcomes of this session are the following
- Identification of opportunities for collaboration between ASEM youth organizations
- Enhanced business exchanges between young entrepreneurs of ASEM countries
- Learning from each other’s experiences and sharing of best practices

To mark the 20th Anniversary celebrations of ASEM in 2016, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, together with the Confederation of Indian Industry, organized an ASEM Youth Dialogue on Saturday, 26 March 2016 in New Delhi, India.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-youth-dialogue-0

2016-03-16/17 Latvia

ASEM Transport Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM TMM SOM)

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Transport

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Declaration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional

ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial

Among other things, leaders stressed the necessity to continue the collective efforts to explore new innovative intermodal and multimodal supply chain solutions complementing conventional transport modality and route to cope with the growing trade volumes between Asia and Europe.

The ASEM Transport Senior Officials’ Meeting took place in Riga from 16-17 March 2016 to conclude Latvia’s coordination and to hand over the responsibility to Indonesia.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-transport-senior-officials-meeting-asem-tmm-som

2016-03-09/10 Slovakia

2nd ASEM Working Group Seminar on Eco-innovation Competence of SMEs

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Surveys / Annexes

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial

Following the roundtable discussions and analysis of needs and expectations of countries, the Working Group selected the following three main topics for further elaboration:

1. Developing training on eco-innovation for SMEs;
2. Eco-innovation advisory services for SMEs Cooperation;
3. Eco-innovation capacity building for governments.

ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC), Small & Medium Business Administration (SMA) of the Republic of Korea and Slovak Business Agency (SBA) in Slovakia held the 2nd ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs-Eco-Innovation Competence on 9-10 March 2016 in Bratislava, the Slovak Republic.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-working-group-seminar-eco-innovation-competence-smes

2016-02/02 South Korea

The 1st Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM CMM7

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting

TOPE: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

The meeting covered discussions in 3 workshops, the Future of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the Creative Industries, Traditional Cultural Heritage and the Creative Economy, and International Cooperation for Vitalizing Creative Industries.

The first preparatory Senior Officials’ Meeting (ISOM) was held on 2 February 2016 in Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea, under the theme, “Culture and Creative Economy.”

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-cmm7

2016-01-18 China

Preparatory Meeting for the 12th ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOM12)

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting

TOPE: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Declaration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The participants exchanged views on priorities for ASEM economic, trade and investment cooperation, in particular the six priorities proposed by the co-presidents of EU. On the priority of fostering connectivity in trade perspective, some participants highlighted business engagement, customs procedures and trade facilitation, and institutional connectivity and people-to-people connectivity.

A Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI) preparatory meeting was held in Beijing at the Ministry of Commerce of China. Senior officials or their representatives from China, European Union, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands and New Zealand attended the meeting.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/preparatory-meeting-the-12th-asem-senior-officials%289%29-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti12

2015-12-03/04 Bulgaria

5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference (ASEM LEMCS)

TYPE OF EVENT: Ministerial Meeting

TOPE: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Declaration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The most important outcomes can be summarised as follows:

1. Enhancing youth labour market outcomes
2. Promoting decent work and safer workplaces in global supply chains
3. Promoting adequate social protection systems for growth and jobs

The Hano Ministerial Declaration of 2012 is focused on employment and social protection as a key to sustainable and inclusive growth, recommending policies in the sphere of employment, decent work, social protection, corporate social responsibility (CSR), health and safety at work.

2015-12-14/16 South Korea

ASEM Working Group on Innovative Competencies and Entrepreneurship 2nd Phase Opening Seminar

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILLARS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The 2nd phase of the WG will be focusing more on factors underneath the successful cases (programmes) in terms of: national guidelines and political endorsement, the perception of policy makers, procedures (collaboration) for program setting, strategic sourcing, the use of resources, etc. Accordingly, the upcoming phase of the WG will be operated with more emphasis on policy perspectives, whereas the previous phase focused on programmes per se.

During the 5th ASEM Labour Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM LEMC5) on 27-28 April 2015 in Riga, Latvia, the reports from the first phase of ASEM Working Group Meeting on Innovative Competencies and Entrepreneurship Skills were submitted by the Chairman, socio-adviser Mr. Jarn Skovsgaard from the Danish Ministry of Education.


2015-09-10/11 Malaysia

ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Migration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people

ASEM PILLARS: Political

The 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference (ASEM LEMCS) took place in Riga, Latvia, in the reports from the first phase of ASEM Working Group Meeting on Innovative Competencies and Entrepreneurship Skills were submitted by the Chairman, socio-adviser Mr. Jarn Skovsgaard from the Danish Ministry of Education.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-symposium-countering-radicalisation-0

2015-08-15/16 South Korea

ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials’ Meeting on Education (ASEM ME6 ISOM)

TYPE OF EVENT: Senior Officials’ Meeting

TOPE: Education and Research

DOCUMENTS: Practical information

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM PILLARS: Physical, Institutional

The ASEM Education Secretariat held the ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials’ Meeting (ISOM) on Education of ASEM on 13-14 April 2016, at The Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNH), Moscow, the Russian Federation, on the side-lines of the Moscow International Fair.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-intermediate-senior-officials-meeting-education-asem-mei-isom

2015-08-01 Russia

ASEM Roundtable on Migration Issues

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Migration

DOCUMENTS: Draft concept paper / discussion paper

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM PILLARS: Political

The goal of this meeting was to strengthen cooperation between the participants of the meeting in the context of migration and policy to promote sustainable economic growth.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-roundtable-migration-issues

2015-03-31 / 04-07 Vietnam

ASEM Youth Week: Stronger Action to Address Zero Hunger Challenge

TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity

TOPE: Disaster Management / Resilience

DOCUMENTS: Practical information

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional

ASEM PILLARS: Socio-Cultural

The goal of this meeting was to strengthen cooperation between the participants of the meeting in the context of migration and policy to promote sustainable economic growth.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-youth-week-stronger-action-address-zero-hunger-challenge
The outcomes of this session are the following:

1. The relevance of the elaboration and having available appropriate long-term mechanism of ASEM disability among ASEM members, with a view to establishing an annual mechanism of two years, for exchanging best practices on disability cooperation.

2. The 4th ASEM Social Partners’ Forum was held on the sidelines of the 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference (ASEM LEMC5).

2015-11-19/21
2nd ASEM Roundtable on Green Building

The Chair’s Statement of the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) underscored the importance of improving framework and working conditions for ASEM SMEs, including expanding their access to credit.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-roundtable-green-building

2015-11-11/12
Belgium
ASEM SPS and Food Safety Seminar: Promoting Cooperation and Coordination on Food Safety Standards (Scientific and technical aspects)

The meeting has discussed many topics related to food safety with discussions after each presentation to exchange knowledge and improve cooperation. Food safety is an increasingly important issue faced by both Asia and Europe. Both regions recognize their mutual interest to jointly promote wider scientific and technical coordination and cooperation on the food safety framework. Considering the challenges, the seminar introduced advanced scientific knowledge and experiences in food safety management from Asian and European Countries.


2015-11-10/12
South Korea
1st ASEM Working Group Seminar on Eco-innovation Competence of SMEs

Senior Officials from ASEM partners hold regular meetings for the overall co-ordination of the ASEM process. Senior Officials' Meeting

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-working-group-seminar-eco-innovation-competence-smes

2015-11-02/04
Luxembourg
12th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM12)

The Chair’s Statement of the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) called for concerted efforts in the following areas: To make full use of relevant resources to initiate and implement more disability-related international cooperation projects and more mainstreaming of disability concerns in general projects, to support the capacity building of civil society organizations of persons with disabilities, and to effectively promote the pragmatic cooperation in the field of disability.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-foreign-ministers-meeting-asmfmm12

2015-10-29/30
Spain
4th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety

The participants recognized the need to continue to closely work together to ally progress on the following identified priority areas: Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security; Combating Infringement on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Protecting Society and the Environment, Involving Business, Communication and Visibility. ASEM Customs Directors-General and Commissioners meet regularly since every two years to discuss relevant developments and priorities of customs work. The ASEM activities in the customs area have focused on the 2014-2015 Action Plan approved by the Customs DGs in 2013, which sets forth 8 initiatives among the 5 main priorities of ASEM in the customs field: Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security, Combating Infringement on IPR, Protection of Society and Environment, Involving Business and Communication and Visibility.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-seminar-nuclear-safety

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

The 1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons was held on the sidelines of the 1st ASEM Ministers’ Meeting on Disability (ASEM FMM12) in November 2013 in New Delhi, India proposed that "Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings" would be a key area for cooperation.


2015-10-07/09
India
11th ASEM Customs DG-Commissioners Meeting

2015-10-29/30
Italy
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe


2015-10-24/26
South Korea
2015-10-24/26
2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
China
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

2015-10-26/28
South Korea
1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Cooperation on Disability

2015-10-29/30
ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe
2015-09-25 Japan
ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM activity

**TOPIC**
Culture and Tourism

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS**
Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS**
Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

Through discussions, eleven major benefits of tourism have been established and six factors that are constraining tourism.

During the ASEM 10 Summit in October 2014 in Milan, Italy, the ASEM leaders recalled the importance of tourism both as an engine for growth and decent job creation and as a crucial tool to enhance people-to-people contacts, and reaffirmed their willingness to deepen cooperation in this area between Asia and Europe. Based on this idea, Japan decided to take a lead for the promotion of tourism between Asia and Europe and to host the ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-symposium-promoting-tourism

2015-09-10/11 Belgium
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM)

**TYPE OF EVENT**
Senior Officials’ Meeting

**TOPIC**
ASEM Summit: follow-up and preparations

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information, Agenda, Surveys / Annexes

Senior Officials discussed the future of ASEM, how to connect the two continents better through infrastructure and through people-to-people links, as well as other matters of common interest such as climate change, sustainable development, disaster management and relevant regional and international issues.

Senior Officials from 53 ASEM partners gathered on 10-11 September 2015 in Brussels in preparation for the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FM/12) that was chaired by EU High Representative and Vice-President Federica Mogherini on 5-6 November 2015 and hosted by Luxembourg.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som

2015-09-09/11 South Korea
ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM activity

**TOPIC**
Transport

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information, Agenda, Declaration

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS**
Economic–Financial

During this meeting, the need to establish an integrated transport and logistics network, the various challenges including security and safety related to transport, the need to improve cross-border cooperation between different institutions and the crucial role of the private sector have been discussed and added to a declaration.

The ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network, which was announced at the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10), in October 2014 in Milan, Italy by Korean President PARK Geun-hye, was held under the theme, Seamless Eurasia: Making Connections www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-symposium-eurasia-transport-and-logistics-network

2015-06-26/27 Singapore
ASEM Seminar on Sustainable Management of Wastewater and Sanitation

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM activity

**TOPIC**
Sustainable Development

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Final Report

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS**
Economic–Financial

The main purposes of the ASEM Seminar on Waste-water Management are to:

1. share technical expertise and solutions in waste-water management and sanitation,
2. and foster Asia-Europe cooperation.

Waste-water management and sanitation are issues that are salient to countries in Europe and Asia. European countries have expertise in municipal waste-water management and have found innovative ways to recycle waste in order to advance their environmental goals. At the same time, Asian countries are striving to improve their practices to align themselves more closely to the Millennium Development Goals.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-sustainable-management-wastewater-and-sanitation

2015-06-17 Belgium
6th ASEM Customs-Trade Day

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM activity

**TOPIC**
Trade and Economic Cooperation

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS**
Economic–Financial

The ASEM Customs-Trade Day is an annual event held ahead of the ASEM Workshop on Customs Matters (AWC) to engage the private sector on best practices and ensure attention for priorities of business.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-customs-trade-day

2015-06-03/05 Vietnam
4th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue: Strengthening Concerted Actions on Water Management Through the Post-2015 Agenda

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM activity

**TOPIC**
Sustainable Development

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS**
Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS**
Economic–Financial

Leaders committed to stimulating tangible cooperation between Asia and Europe in water-related issues, reaffirming ASEM’s engagement to bi-regional cooperation between the Danube and Mekong regions, as a model in transforming the shared challenges related to food, water and energy security into opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The 4th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue was held on 3-5 June 2015 in Bien Tre, Vietnam. The dialogue focused on the theme, Strengthening Concerted Actions on Water Management Through the Post-2015 Agenda.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-strengthening-concerted-actions-water-management

2015-06-01/30 Laos

**TYPE OF EVENT**
ASEM activity

**TOPIC**
Sustainable Development, Physical

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS**
Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS**
Economic–Financial

Leaders reaffirmed their engagement to address emerging challenges through trans-boundary cooperation and collective efforts, with the view towards promoting sustainable water management, flood risk control and ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

ASEM Leaders committed to stimulate tangible cooperation between Europe and Asia in water-related issues, reaffirming ASEM’s engagement to concrete bi-regional cooperation between the Danube and Mekong regions in order to transform the shared challenges related to food, water and energy security into opportunities for growth and sustainable development.

Laos will host the 4th ASEM Sustainable Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in June 2015. This follows up the outcomes of
ASEM Industry Dialogue on Connectivity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Initiative

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The dialogue provided a platform for ASEM government officials, entrepreneurs, scholars and other stakeholders to share and exchange valuable findings and thoughts on various aspects of connectivity, such as opportunities and challenges, ways of promoting, investment and financing.

The ASEM Industry Dialogue on Connectivity was proposed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) in 2014. The ASEM Industry Dialogue on Connectivity adopted the theme, Advancing Asia-Europe Connectivity Through Innovation. The dialogue was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Commerce, and organised by the Changjing Municipal People’s Government and China Centre for International Economic Exchanges.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-industry-dialogue-connectivity

**2015-05-24/27**

**Slovenia**

ASEM Meeting on Sustainable Management and Use of Forests in Policy and Practice

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The meeting is aimed at exchanging experiences between policymakers and experts involved in the implementation of sustainable forest management in ASEM.


**2015-05-22-23**

**Mongolia**

ASEM Seminar on Renewable Energy

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Mongolia, China, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia, Turkey

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The seminar participants agreed on following:

1. Develop economic cooperation within the region
2. Create a cooperation mechanism to provide with recommendations and proposals on issues of energy security, among other things.
3. Improve policy and legal environment for renewable energy in developing Asian countries.
4. Assess renewable energy consumption


www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-renewable-energy

**2015-05-18/26**

**Brunei**

ASEM Workshop on Fostering Entrepreneurship in Higher Education

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

Participants discussed and proposed a number of recommendations as a stepping forward by improving the educational system and culture that cultivate and nurture the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The 4th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM 4EM) held on 15-16 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia highlighted the engagement of business and industry as one of the key policy areas in which to achieve better understanding of and greater comparability between the different education systems of ASEM.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-workshop-fostering-entrepreneurship-higher-education

**2015-04-28/29**

**Latvia**

3rd ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TM3)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Transport

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Practical information, Agenda, Declaration, Surveys / Annexes

In conclusion, the participants emphasized the important role of transport as an enabler of growth and prosperity, taking into account new innovative intermodal and multimodal supply chain solutions and the importance of promoting and enhancing transport integration, among other things. The 3rd ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TM3) was held from 28-29 April 2015 in Riga, Latvia under the theme, “Development of Euro-Asia Multimodal Transport Linkages—Status Quo and Blueprints for the Future”.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-transport-ministers-meeting-asem-tm3

**2015-04-28**

**Latvia**

ASEM Transport Senior Officials’ Meeting

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials’ Meeting

**TOPIC** Transport

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

Senior Officials for Transport held a meeting to prepare for the 3rd ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TM3).

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-transport-senior-officials-meeting

**2015-04-27-28**

**Latvia**

5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM M5ES)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Practical information, Agenda, Speeches, Final Report, Summary / Conclusions

**ASEM PILLARS** Institutional

The participants not only shared experience from their countries and organizations but also gave many constructive suggestions how the issues – skills’ development for better employability and new learning technologies in education – could be tackled through the ASEM education cooperation. Additionally, participants have set priorities for the future work-cycle.

ASEM M5ES was organised by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with the ASEM Education Secretariat, the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretariat of the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-m5es

**2015-04/26**

**Latvia**

2nd Preparatory ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) for the 5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM M5ES)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials’ Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

The 2nd Preparatory ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) for the 5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM M5ES) was held from 25-26 April 2015 in Riga, Latvia under the theme, “Development of Advancing Education in line with the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting 2015 Agenda”. The participants discussed and proposed a number of recommendations as a stepping forward by improving the educational system and culture that cultivate and nurture the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-preparatory-asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem

**2015-04-20/22**

**China**

ASEM Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

ASEM Leaders stressed the key role of science, technology and innovation in promoting inclusive socio-economic growth and job creation. They agreed to enhance cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and to promote the joint development and deployment of innovative solutions, in order to address common societal challenges and to strengthen the trans-regional mobility of researchers and innovators.

Sustainable development is at the core of the Millennium Development Goals and the UN post-2015 development agenda under discussion. Science, technology and innovation are the driving force for economic growth, social development and environmental protection, which are among the most important dimensions of sustainable development.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-cooperation-science-technology-innovation-sustainable-development

**2015-03-31/04-01**

**Thailand**

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials’ Meeting

**TOPIC** ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Final Report, Initiative

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial, Political, Socio-Cultural

The content of meetings must be put in the context with the focus on a limited number of key issues. ASEM should have a sharper focus on a smaller cluster of issues which allow for real exchanges of views, ideas and experience-sharing. Enhanced connectivity requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including industry and the think-tank and academic community. In the end, ASEM’s future hinges on continued economic interdependence and increased strategic engagement between Asia and Europe. The content of meetings must be put in the context with the focus on a limited number of key issues which allow for real exchanges of views, ideas and experience-sharing. Enhanced connectivity requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including industry and the think-tank and academic community. In the end, ASEM’s future hinges on continued economic interdependence and increased strategic engagement between Asia and Europe.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som

**2015-03-30**

**Thailand**

ASEM Symposium on the Future Direction of ASEM

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial, Political, Socio-Cultural

The content of meetings must be put in the context with the focus on a limited number of key issues which allow for real exchanges of views, ideas and experience-sharing. Enhanced connectivity requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including industry and the think-tank and academic community. In the end, ASEM’s future hinges on continued economic interdependence and increased strategic engagement between Asia and Europe. The content of meetings must be put in the context with the focus on a limited number of key issues which allow for real exchanges of views, ideas and experience-sharing. Enhanced connectivity requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including industry and the think-tank and academic community. In the end, ASEM’s future hinges on continued economic interdependence and increased strategic engagement between Asia and Europe.
achieved so far, and in view of these achievements, set out ASEM’s future direction. Of particular interest is how to increase the involvement of non-governmental bodies in ASE

2015-03-25/27 | China
4th ASEM Rectors’ Conference (ARC4)
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Education and Research

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

Theme: “University-Business Partnerships: Asia and Europe Seeking 21st Century Solutions”, the 4th ASEM Rectors’ Conference (ARC4) addressed how universities can better cooperate with the business sector to equip students with employability skills, foster entrepreneurship, and create new learning environments through information and communication technologies.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-rectors-conference-arc4

2015-03-11/13 | Thailand
3rd ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM3)
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Disaster Management / Resilience

DOCUMENTS: Declaration, Chair’s statement

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

Four core topics of urban issues that are of common interest among all cities in the present day were discussed:

1. Disaster Management,
2. Response to Impacts of Environmental Issues,
3. Traffic and Transportation Management,
4. Tourism Management and Cultural Diversity

The main objective is to set up an East Asia Centre for Natural Disaster Management and Relief in India, as part of India’s Look East Policy. It was suggested that Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies will convene a meeting among ASEM partners.

Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies among ASEM partners convene to discuss disaster management and relief.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm3

2015-03-09/12 | Indonesia
ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2015
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Education and Research

DOCUMENTS: Declaration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial

The present tendency is that lifelong learning research offers new knowledge for devising solutions suited to different contexts in order to renouveau the agenda. This brings along three main recommendations:

1. Developing states can hardly afford to ignore the lessons that strong states using heavy investment in education tend to get there first
2. Specific challenges for Confucian learners
3. Balance the ICT type with educational strategies that address the relevance and efficiency of the use of these systems in relation to specific contexts.

The ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2015 themed „How can higher education contribute to building a local, economic, technological and cultural innovation through education?” To what extent could trans-regional and cross-border (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation enhance the effectiveness and the impact on innovation, taking into account the global nature of business and the fact that many companies have branches in the other region”.

The 4th ASEM University-Business Forum considered how higher education - particularly trans-regional and cross-border (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation - can contribute to social, economic, technological and cultural innovation and ensure that graduates can successfully operate in international/global environments.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-university-business-forum

2015-02-27 | India
ASEM Roundtable on Water Management Technologies
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Sustainable Development

DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial

With the support of technological transformation and demonstration of global best available technologies and in the context of ASEM’s new approach of tangible cooperation, a Roundtable to deliberate on the subject and identify important factors contributing towards water use efficiency and their relative contributions, which would facilitate prioritization in evolving investment strategies to promote water use efficiency, was proposed.

India hosted the ASEM Roundtable on Water Management Technologies. Towards Efficient and Sustainable Water Management through Partnerships Amongst ASEM Countries as part of Water India 2015.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-water-management-technologies

2015-03-09/13 | India
Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Education and Research

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The course organised by the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs was open to First Secretary-level diplomats. The course aimed to enhance awareness about issues in diplomacy today and included an introduction to various facets of India’s foreign policy.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India offered an intensive one-week long module on Diplomacy and Foreign Policy – An Indian Perspective for diplomats from ASEM members, from 9-13 March 2015 in New Delhi, India.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/foreign-policy-module-ASEM-diplomats

2015-02-27 | India
ASEM Roundtable on ‘Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescue Efforts’
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Disaster Management / Resilience

DOCUMENTS: Practical Information, Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

6 presenters discussed questions like “How can higher education contribute to building a local, economic, technological and cultural innovation through education?” To what extent could trans-regional and cross-border (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation enhance the effectiveness and the impact on innovation, taking into account the global nature of business and the fact that many companies have branches in the other region”. The 4th ASEM University-Business Forum considered how higher education - particularly trans-regional and cross-border (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation - can contribute to social, economic, technological and cultural innovation and ensure that graduates can successfully operate in international/global environments.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-university-business-forum

2015-04-18 | Latvia
5th ASEM ME Seminar on Innovative Competencies and Entrepreneurship Education
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Education and Research

DOCUMENTS: Agenda

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The ASEM ME Innovative Competences Programme aims to share knowledge on how the education sector can proactively involve children and youth towards innovation and creativity.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-me-seminar-innovative-competences-and-entrepreneurship-education

2014-12-04/05 | India
ASEM Roundtable on ‘Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescue Efforts’
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Disaster Management / Resilience

DOCUMENTS: Practical Information, Final Report

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial

The main objective is to set up an East Asia Centre for Natural Disaster Management and Relief in India, as part of India’s Look East Policy. It was suggested that Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies will convene a meeting among ASEM partners.

Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies among ASEM partners convene to discuss disaster management and relief.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-%E2%80%93innovations-technologies-disaster-rescue-efforts%E2%80%93

2014-11-20 | India
ASEM Roundtable on ‘Cooperation in Industrial R&D and Technology Alliances: Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology and Medical Devices’
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional
ASEM PARTNERS: Economic-Financial

The aim was to strengthen STI-led cooperation between India and ASEM member countries, and identify technologies that can be targeted for joint industrial R&D and pilot demonstration projects under priority areas such as Life Science, Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology & Medical devices.

ASEM members could strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)-led cooperation and industrial R&D.


2014-11-19/21 | Philippines
ASEM International Experts’ Workshop on Stolen Assets and Hidden Wealth: Theft, Recovery and Restitution
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Defence and Security

DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Political, Socio-Cultural

The Workshop achieved the objectives initially targeted by the organizers, since it provided a platform for bilateral exchanges and establishing personal contacts between authorities involved in Asset Recovery and Financial Intelligence proceedings.

The Workshop aims to share knowledge and best practices with government officials from ASEM members working on asset recovery and restitution.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-international-experts-workshop-stolen-assets-and-hidden-wealth-theft-recovery-and

2014-11-12 | Latvia
2nd ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration Working Group Meeting
TYPE OF EVENT: ASEM activity
| Term: Education and Research

DOCUMENTS: Declaration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional, People-to-people
ASEM PARTNERS: Political, Socio-Cultural

1. The Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (Geneva Convention) and the European and Asian regions are encouraged to work closely with regard to inter-regional cooperation and information exchange on recognition matters.
2. The effective cooperation mechanism, as well as cooperation activities shall be jointly constituted and implemented by all national information centres and those institutions with responsibilities for national information centres through respective regional networks.
3. Inter-regional cooperation is not confined to national information centres or those institutions with responsibilities for national information centres through respective regional networks. Other institutions with responsibilities for recognition of qualifications in other regions are encouraged to participate in inter-regional cooperation activities.

Education experts from ASEMs support the idea of an “ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration”, which combines the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (Tokyo Recognition Convention).

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-recognition-bridging-declaration-working-group-meeting
3. It was underlined the importance of specific education on nuclear and physics, and also advanced trainings and fellowships to enhance the expertise, in addition to increasing the number of personnel for both regulatory body and utilities.

The 3rd ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety aimed to initiate discussions on nuclear safety and to foster Asia-Europe capacity-building and cooperation in nuclear safety. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-seminar-nuclear-safety

2014-10-27/29 Vietnam 4th ASEM ME Seminar on Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship Education

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity
TOPIC Education and Research
DOCUMENTS Final Report
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

The Working Group focused on two major issues:
• Case studies from 10 ASEM countries on successful education programmes on entrepreneurship education;
• Key drivers to prepare and implement education policies on innovation and entrepreneurship for primary, secondary and vocational education.

The ASEM ME Innovative Competences Programme aimed to share knowledge on how the education sector can proactively involve children and youth towards innovation and creativity.


2014-10-20/21 The Netherlands 6th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM6)

TYPE OF EVENT Ministerial Meeting
TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation
DOCUMENTS Chair’s statement, Surveys / Annexes, Summary / Conclusions
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

In conclusion, a partnership of equivalence between the cultural, creative industries and education sector should be established. Productive use of internships, apprenticeships and other mechanisms which connect teaching, learning and creative practice should be encouraged and best practice governance models should be shared.

The Netherlands hosted the 6th ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting (ASEM CMM6) from 19-21 October 2014 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asm-cmm6

2014-10-19 The Netherlands 2nd ASEM Preparatory SOM for the 6th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM6)

TYPE OF EVENT Senior Officials’ Meeting
TOPIC Culture and Tourism
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

ASEM Senior Officials for Culture met to prepare for the 6th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (CMM6). www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-preparatory-seminar-6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asm-cmm6

2014-10-16/17 Italy 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10)

TYPE OF EVENT Summits
TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation, Defence and Security, Sustainable Development
CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Physical, Institutional, People-to-people
ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial, Political, Socio-Cultural

Under the theme “Responsible Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Security”, leaders exchanged views on economic, financial, regional and global issues, as well as traditional and non-traditional security challenges, in the spirit of partnership between Asia and Europe. Highlighting the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, leaders discussed the way forward in creating an enabling environment for the prosperity of their people through the enhancing of links between Asia and Europe. Leaders also agreed to strengthen ASEM’s three pillars of cooperation in the lead-up to ASEM’s 20th anniversary in 2016.

The 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) was chaired by the President of the European Council and hosted by the Government of Italy. The Summit was held on 16-17 October 2014 in the Italian city of Milan.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/10th-asem-summit-asem10
ASEM Day 2017

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Cyprus
Finland
Hungary
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Latvia
Lithuania
Norway
Philippines
Poland
Romania
Switzerland
Thailand
Vietnam

ASEM Day 2018

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Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Viet Nam