

# ASEM Connectivity Inventory



**ASEM:** CONNECTING ASIA AND EUROPE





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# ASEM

# Connectivity

# Inventory

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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 connectivity 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](http://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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

1. The total of 112 includes activities on topics of Trade and Economic Cooperation, Disaster Management Resilience, Sustainable Development, Transport, Energy, ICT/Digital Technology, Finance, Education and Research, Culture and Tourism, Human Rights and Development. It excludes Defence and Security, Migration, ASEM Summit and follow up meetings, and ASEM Days.

## Track 1 – Inter-governmental

The more formalized 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/were 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

Documents on the Infoboard do not detail the monitoring of education-related activities, their results and outcomes.<sup>3</sup> 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 programmes 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.

## 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,<sup>4</sup> green shipping, technical and vocational education training, pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and food security, etc.

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 Duo 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 ASEM 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 ASEM 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 (ASEM 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.

# VIII. Infographics \*

## 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.

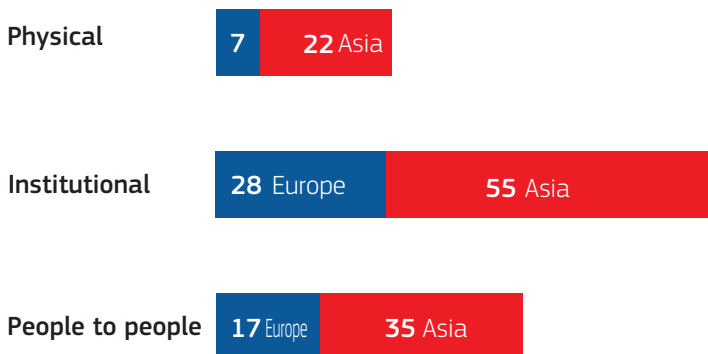
Host countries	Official meetings
39	132
44 Outreach activities	2 Summits

## Main Topics number of activities



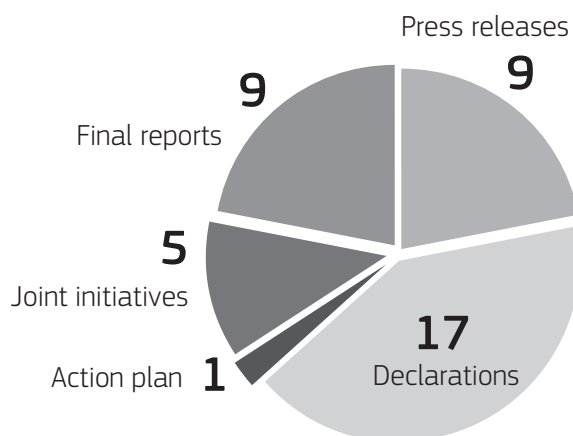
## Connectivity on the agenda

139 activities covered one or more connectivity pillars



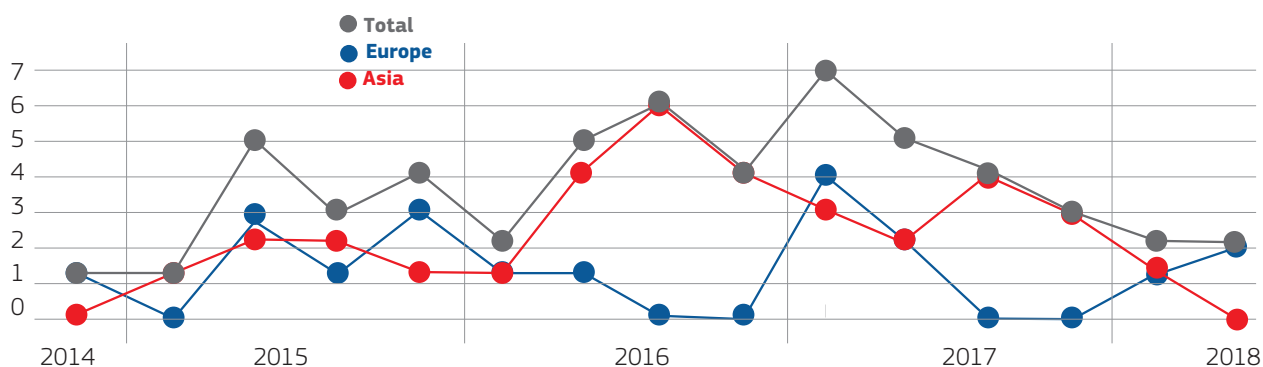
## Output

37 activities resulted in one or more outcome documents



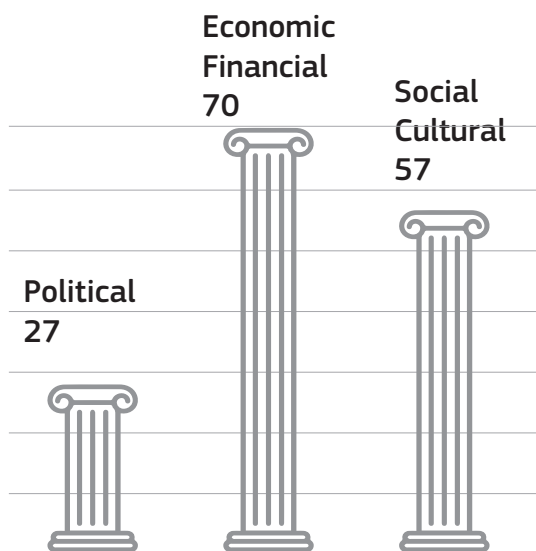
## When was connectivity discussed?

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



## ASEM Pillars & Activities

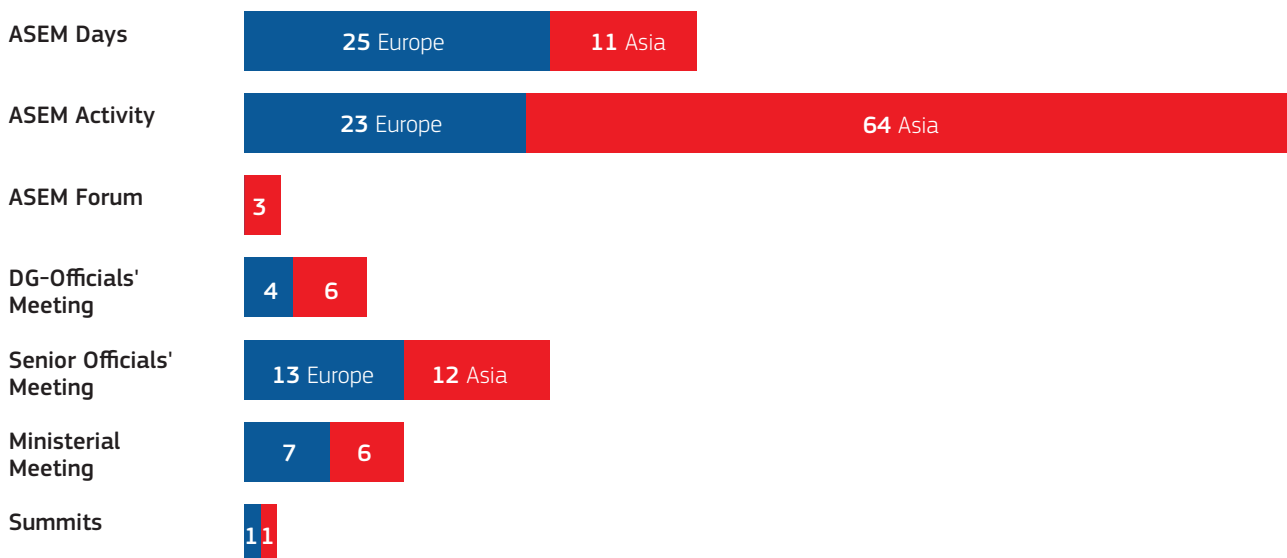
124 out of 139 activities covered one or more pillar.



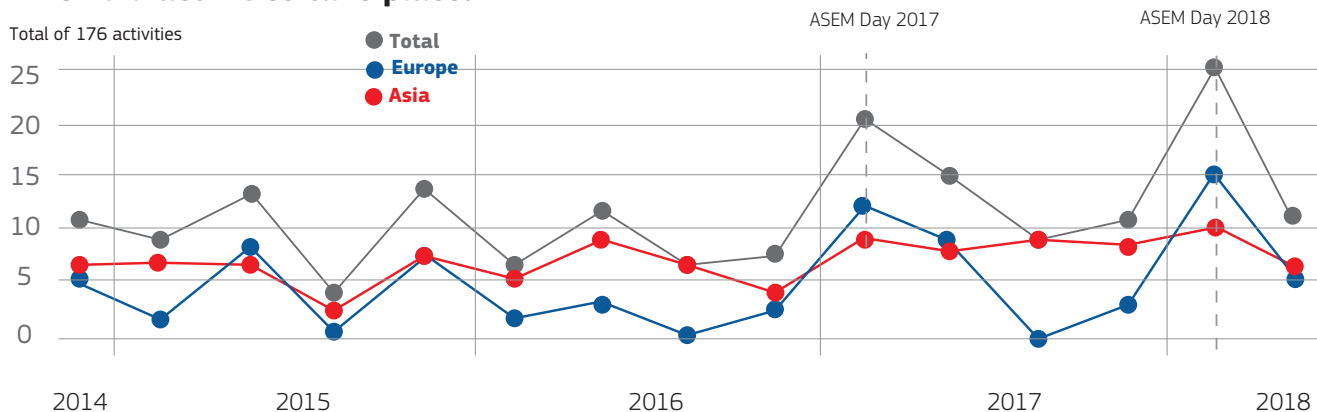
## What ASEM discusses

**Trade & Economics**  
 ASEM Day  
 Defence and Security  
**Culture and Tourism**  
 Disaster Management  
 Energy  
 Human Rights and Development  
 Finance  
 ICT-Digital-Technology  
**Culture & Tourism**  
**Sustainable development**  
**Migration**  
 Transport  
 ASEM Summit Follow up and Preparations  
**Education and Research**

## Number and type of event per region



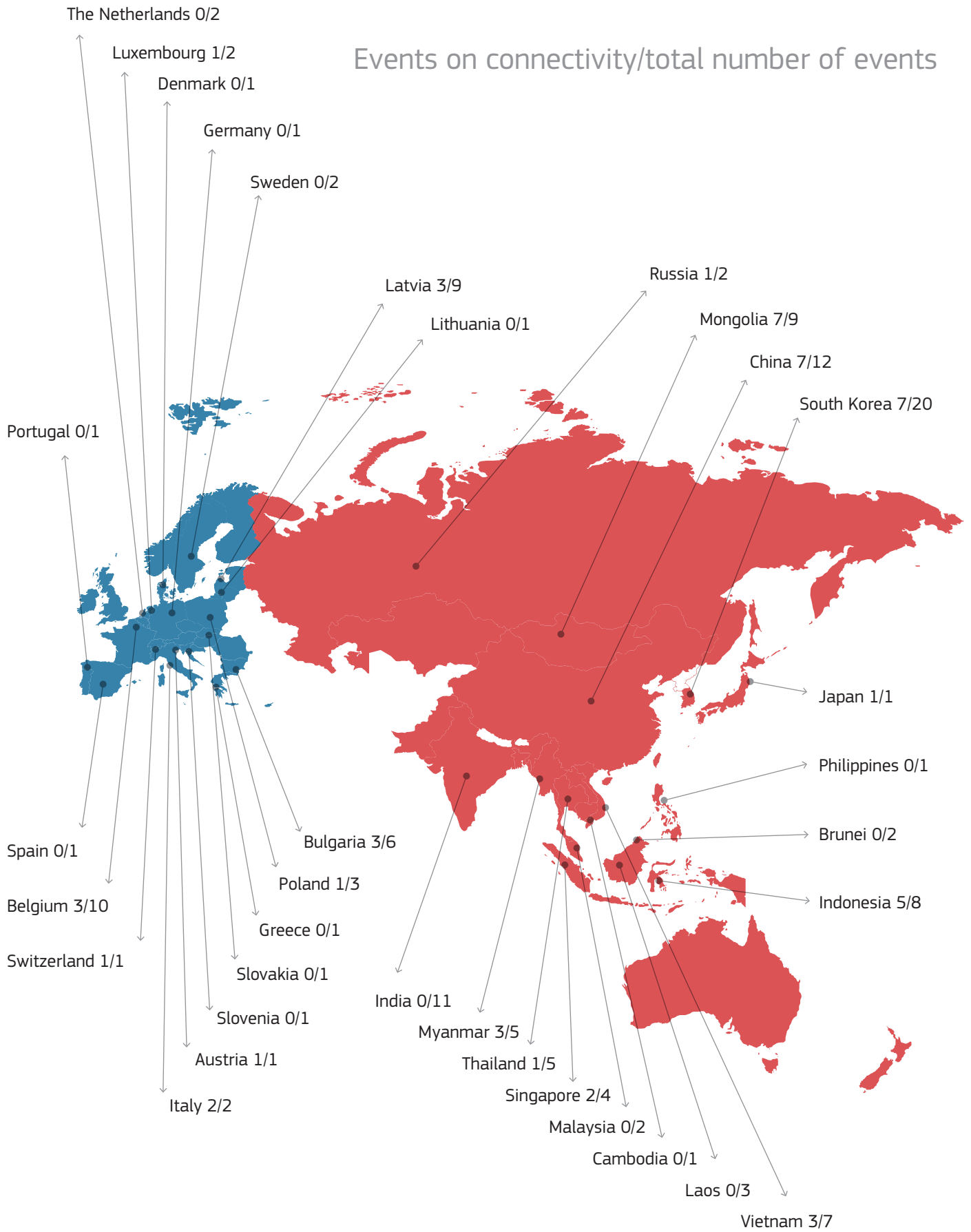
## When did activities take place?



\* 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.

## Events on connectivity/total number of events



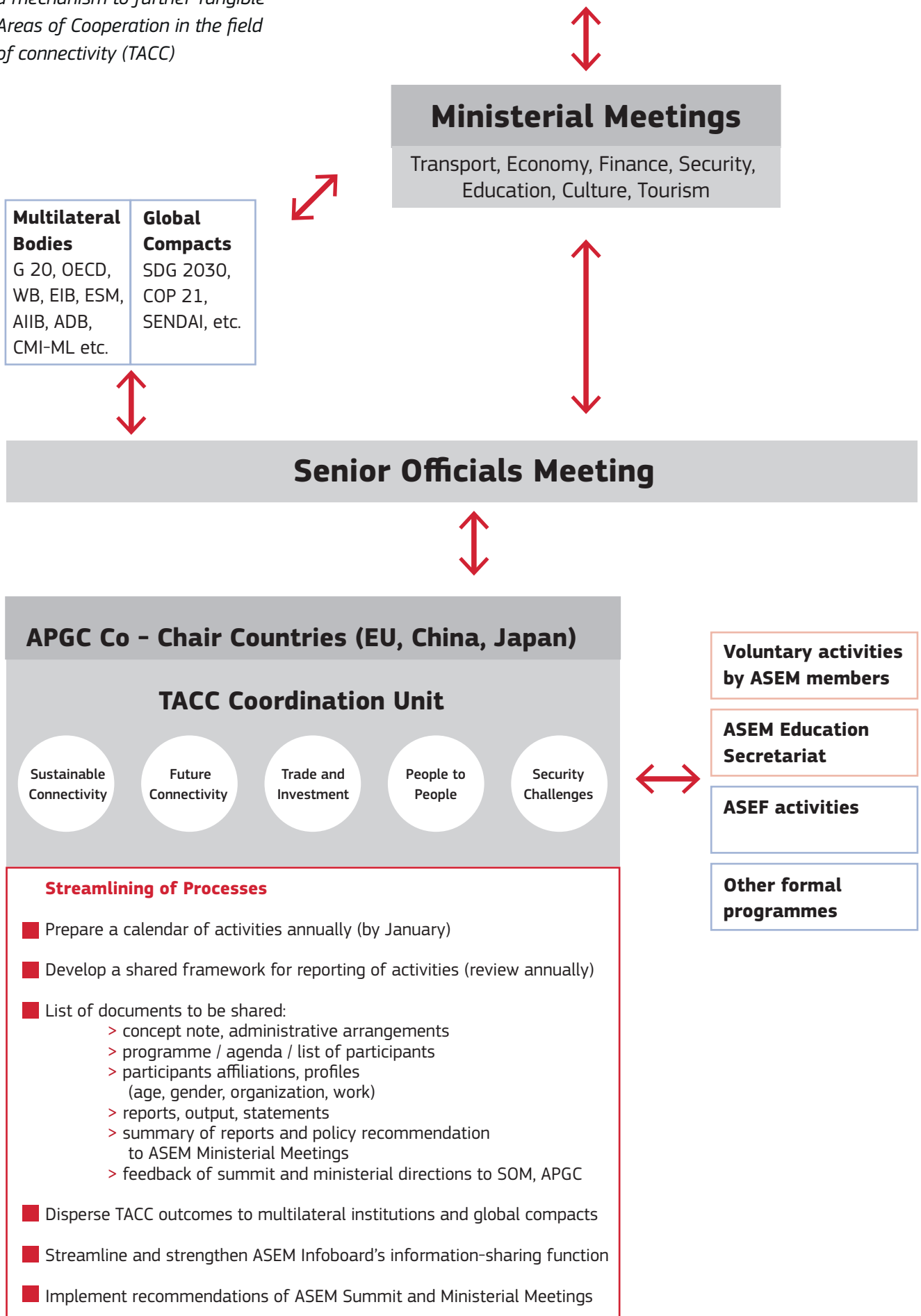
**25** ASEM Days  
**48** activities

**11** ASEM Days  
**92** activities

# Annex I

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

## ASEM SUMMIT



# Annex II

## ASEM Connectivity Inventory Database

**2018-06-28/29**

**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** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM1) for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) & 4th Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC4) was held successfully on 28-29 June in Vienna, Austria. The meeting set a good foundation for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) in October in Brussels.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5994/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som1-for-the-12th-asem-summit-asem12-4th-meeting-of-the-asem-pathfinder-group-on-connectivity-apgc4](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5994/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som1-for-the-12th-asem-summit-asem12-4th-meeting-of-the-asem-pathfinder-group-on-connectivity-apgc4)

**2018/06/26**

**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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Social Cultural

The ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC), which is an international specialized institution established with ASEM approval at its 11th Summit in July 2016, aims to promote and protect the human rights of older persons, and strengthen cooperation with ASEM partners and domestic organizations on the human rights of older persons.

The opening ceremony of the AGAC, which was jointly organized by the AGAC, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) and Seoul Metropolitan Government, was held on 26 June with the participation of around 150 participants, including Chairperson of the NHRCK, Mayor of Seoul City, member of the National Assembly, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassadors and Deputy Heads of Mission of ASEM partners' Embassies in Korea.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6054/opening-ceremony-and-international-seminar-of-asem-global-ageing-center](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6054/opening-ceremony-and-international-seminar-of-asem-global-ageing-center)

**2018-06-19/20**

**Vietnam**

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

In particular, this event is designed to provide a platform for ASEM members to exchange policy and best practices of transforming those commitments into climate actions to effectively implement the Paris Agreement and SDGs at global, regional and local levels. Furthermore, the Conference would also highlight international cooperation in tackling issues of climate change and promote effective ASEM cooperation on this matter in the time to come.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5987/asem-conference-on-climate-action-to-achieving-the-sustainable-development-goals-ways-forward](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5987/asem-conference-on-climate-action-to-achieving-the-sustainable-development-goals-ways-forward)

**2018-06-11 / 2018-09-28**

**Thailand**

### **2019 ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (DUO-Thailand) – Call for Applications**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Social Cultural

DUO-Thailand program has been established since 2006 and 328 awardees have been supported over the past 12 years. DUO-Thailand Program is sponsored by the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Ministry of Education, Thailand with an aim to enhance a mobility of students between Thailand and ASEM member states in Europe on a balanced basis.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6053/2019-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-duo-thailand-call-for-applications](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6053/2019-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-duo-thailand-call-for-applications)

**2018-06-03/05** **Indonesia**

### **3rd ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM ISOM3) on "Strengthening 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** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Final Report

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Social Cultural

The ISOM integrates 2 workshops on the first day, in accordance with the new meeting structure as agreed in the Chair's Conclusions of the ASEMME6 in Seoul. During these workshops, discussions will take place on identified themes with input from experts. The workshops will be co-chaired by an Asian and a European Country. Input for the discussions in the workshops will be provided by experts from the ASEM Education Initiatives as well as by external experts. One workshop will be organized under the 2 thematic areas 'Quality Assurance and Recognition' and 'Balanced Mobility', the other workshop will combine the themes of 'Engaging Businesses and Industries in Education' and 'Lifelong Learning including TVET'.

The ISOM is organized by the ASEM Education Secretariat. The host of the event, the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE) of the Republic of Indonesia invites Senior Officials from Ministries of Education in ASEM Partner Countries to the Intermediate Senior Officials Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5992/3rd-asem-intermediate-senior-officials-meeting-asem-isom3-on-strengthening-regional-collaboration-to-cope-with-the-4-0-industrial-revolution-and-the-implementation-of-society-5-0-for-reaching-sustainable-development-goals](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5992/3rd-asem-intermediate-senior-officials-meeting-asem-isom3-on-strengthening-regional-collaboration-to-cope-with-the-4-0-industrial-revolution-and-the-implementation-of-society-5-0-for-reaching-sustainable-development-goals)

**2018-05-03/04** **Switzerland**

### **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting Retreat (ASEM SOM-R)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

The agenda of the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting Retreat (ASEM SOM-R) is to mainly have a strategic debate on the future of ASEM and to revitaliz the ASEM process.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5989/asem-senior-officials-meeting-retreat-asem-som-r](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5989/asem-senior-officials-meeting-retreat-asem-som-r)

**2018-03-26/29** **Singapore**

### **13th ASEM Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) Cooperation Center Governors' Meeting (3rd Asi@connect Governors' Meeting)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** ICT / Digital Connectivity

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6047/13th-asem-trans-eurasia-information-network-tein-cooperation-center-governors-meeting-3rd-asicconnect-governors-meeting](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6047/13th-asem-trans-eurasia-information-network-tein-cooperation-center-governors-meeting-3rd-asicconnect-governors-meeting)

**2018/03/23** **Laos**

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6045/asem-seminar-on-lao-pdr-activities-on-asem-and-mekong-lancang-cooperation](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6045/asem-seminar-on-lao-pdr-activities-on-asem-and-mekong-lancang-cooperation)

**2018/02/28** **Bulgaria**

### **ASEM Culture Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM Culture SOM) for the 8th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM8)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Social Cultural

ASEM Culture Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM Culture SOM) for the 8th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM8) will be held on 28-Feb at Sofia, Bulgaria.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6044/asem-culture-senior-officials-meeting-asem-culture-som-for-the-8th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm8](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6044/asem-culture-senior-officials-meeting-asem-culture-som-for-the-8th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm8)

**2018/04/26** **Bulgaria**

### **13th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FinMM13)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Finance

**\*\*> \*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial, Political

The 13th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FinMM13) will be held 26 April 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria. More information will be posted once available

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-finance-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-asem-finmm13](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-finance-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-asem-finmm13)

**2018-04-26/27** **Singapore**

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Transport

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

The oceans will be vital for future global growth and prosperity. The OCED has estimated that the blue economy can double its contribution to global value creation by 2030. However, our oceans are under considerable pressure from climate change, acidification, pollution and unsustainable harvesting. Seaborne transport is one of the most energy-efficient forms of transport, but it is also a significant contributor to global emissions

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-%E2%80%9Cgreen-shipping-blue-business-moving-forward-together%E2%80%9D](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-%E2%80%9Cgreen-shipping-blue-business-moving-forward-together%E2%80%9D)

2018-04-25/26

Latvia

## ASEM Technical and Vocational Education and Training Seminar

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM 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](http://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** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-duo-sweden-call-applications](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-asem-duo-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** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme was established in 2001 with the aim of promoting exchanges of people between Korea and 30 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-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-duo-korea-call-applications](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-duo-korea-call-applications)

2018-03-28/30

China

## 5th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Defence and Security

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

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](http://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**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Chair's statement

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM 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%E2%80%99-meeting-asem-cmm8](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/8th-asem-culture-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-asem-cmm8)

2018-02-28

Indonesia

## ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Jakarta

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Culture and Tourism

\*\*\*> **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Final Report

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

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 island tourism, were discussed.

Japan and Indonesia held the “ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Jakarta” on 28 February 2018 at the AYANA Mid 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](http://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** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation, Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY 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-asem-duo-belgiumflanders-fellowship-programme-call-applications](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2018-asem-duo-belgiumflanders-fellowship-programme-call-applications)

**2017-12-05/06** **Belgium**

## **2nd ASEM Conference on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) - Food Safety: new policies, new challenges, new cooperation and technical aspects**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

At the event, 6 subjects have been discussed.

These subjects were:

1. How Partners would ensure the food standards on the light of the new policies and challenges.
2. International standards. Food safety standards in international agreements and trade.
3. Controlling the food chain supply chain, new challenges.
4. Enforcing food chain controls. Exchange of information channels and cooperation.
5. Animal health and international standards.
6. Antimicrobial resistance: Experience, cooperation and exchange of practices

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-conference-sanitary-and-phytosanitary-sps-food-safety-new-policies-new-challenges](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-conference-sanitary-and-phytosanitary-sps-food-safety-new-policies-new-challenges)

**2017/11/28** **China**

## **3rd ASEM Forum on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM Forum

**TOPIC** ICT / Digital / Technology

**CONNECTIVITY**

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-forum-cooperation-science-technology-and-innovation)

**2017-11-21/11** **South Korea**

## **6th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME6)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY**

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

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 imbalanced mobility 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 informality, networking and flexibility, the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME) offers a 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-me6)

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**2017/11/20** **South Korea**

### **2nd ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM ME6**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-me6](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-me6)

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**2017-11-17/19** **Myanmar**

### **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FMM13**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

An ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) will be held on 17-19 November 2017, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Myanmar is the host of ASEM FMM13 on 20-21 November 2017.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-4](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-4)

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**2017-10-25/26** **Malaysia**

### **ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Defence and Security

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

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

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

The Symposium on Countering Radicalisation aims to provide a platform to share knowledge, enhance understanding, create an informal ASEM network of experts and to increase awareness and highlight the importance of soft approaches in countering radicalisation.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-countering-radicalisation-1](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-countering-radicalisation-1)

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**2017-10-25/26** **Laos**

### **6th ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

In this meeting, the aim is to increase the recognition by the international community of the urgency of water resources management incorporated in sustainable development.

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. Lao PDF is a co-sponsor together with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Viet Nam, and Thailand. Under the motto, "Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development", the 6th ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development will be held in Pakse District, Champasak Province.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-seminar-water-resources-management-and-sustainable-development](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-seminar-water-resources-management-and-sustainable-development)

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**2017-10-20/21** **Myanmar**

### **13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

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

\*\*\*> **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Chair's statement, Surveys / Annexes

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

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

Ministers recognised that Asia and Europe have strong, mutual interest in enhancing connectivity between the two regions to foster economic growth and bring countries, societies and people closer together. Ministers recognised the development of national, regional and global initiatives in Asia and Europe strengthening transport connectivity and facilitation

The 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) was held 20-21 November 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar [www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-foreign-ministers-meeting-asem-fmm13](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-foreign-ministers-meeting-asem-fmm13)

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**2017-10-16/17** **Germany**

### **12th ASEM Customs DG-Commissioners' Meeting**

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Declaration, Press release

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

The talks resulted in the adoption of the Berlin Declaration, a joint statement that sets out the objectives and priorities for customs cooperation among ASEM members and a specific plan of action for 2018 and 2019. The key actions for the coming two years will focus on areas like customs trade facilitation, paperless cargo processes, cross-border e-commerce trade lanes, border enforcement in connection with international postal items.

Germany hosted the 12th meeting of the ASEM Customs Directors-General and Commissioners on 16-17 October 2017 in Berlin. The ASEM Customs Directors-General and Commissioners meet every 2 years to discuss relevant developments and priorities in the area of customs.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-customs-dg-commissioners-meeting](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-customs-dg-commissioners-meeting)

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**2017-10-11** **China**

### **ASEM Seminar on All-Dimensional Support to the Financing of SMEs**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Finance

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

At the seminar, financial inclusion and enhancing bank's credit capacity for SMEs has been discussed. In addition to this, they aim to encourage Asian and Financial institutions to strengthen cooperation.

The seminar aimed to look into the prominent issues on the financing of SMEs in Asia and Europe, including SMEs' lack of access to finance, high cost of finance, overwhelming collateral requirements, gaps in obtaining credit information,

cumbersome documentation processes, etc. It intended to provide the platform for policy exchanges, best practices sharing and case studies among ASEM members. It is hoped that relevant stakeholders have worked together, through this seminar, to identify the priority areas of cooperation and formulate recommendations for future actions.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-all-dimensional-support-financing-smes](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-all-dimensional-support-financing-smes)

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**2017-09-28/29** **Cambodia**

### **14th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows**

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Migration

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

The 14th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows was held from 28-29 September 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The theme of the Conference hosted by the General Department of Immigration of Cambodia was "Immigration Management Strategies".

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/14th-asem-conference-directors-general-immigration-management-migratory-flows](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/14th-asem-conference-directors-general-immigration-management-migratory-flows)

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**2017-09-26/28** **Indonesia**

### **4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM4)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Transport

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Declaration

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

The ministers are underlining the importance of promoting and enhancing transport connectivity through the development of integrated transport systems, among other things. In addition to this, they continue to strengthen cooperation, introduce a strategic plan for the development of transport corridors and work towards improved regional and inter-continental connectivity.

The 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM4) was held on 26-28 September 2017 in Bali, Indonesia, under the theme, "Bridging Asia and Europe through Integrated Transport Connectivity and Synergized Regional Strategic Plans".

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-transport-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-asem-tmm4](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-transport-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-asem-tmm4)

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**2017-09-26** **Indonesia**

### **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM TMM4**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Transport

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

The ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM4) was held on 26 September 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. ASEM TMM4 took place from 26-28 September 2017 under the

theme, "Bridging Europe-Asia through Integrated Transport connectivity-Synergizing Regional Strategic Plan: Towards Modernized Transport Connectivity and Greener Urban Transport."

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-tmm4](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-tmm4)

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**2017-09-21/22** **South - Korea**

### **7th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (ASEM EMM7)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Chair's statement, Surveys / Annexes, Initiative

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

The ministers acknowledge the benefits of trade and investment and resist all forms of protectionism. At the same time, they acknowledge that the recent growing discontent with globalization needs to be addressed properly.

The 7th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (ASEM EMM7) was held on 21-22 September 2017 in Seoul, Korea.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/7th-asem-economic-ministers-meeting-asem-emm7](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/7th-asem-economic-ministers-meeting-asem-emm7)

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**2017-09-19/21** **South - Korea**

### **2nd ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Human Rights and Development

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Chair's statement, Summary / Conclusions, Press release

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

During the Conference, experts and representatives from international institutions, NHRIs, international NGOs, and ASEM members participated to discuss international trend and major activities with regards to human rights of older persons. In addition, implementation status and exemplary cases of the MIPAA, SDGs and human rights of older persons, and measures to enhance international cooperation were discussed. NHRCK, as a chair of the GANHRI Working Group on Ageing will continue to make efforts to lead international cooperation for promotion of human rights of older persons.

The event aimed to share information on policies to respond to population ageing not only in Europe and Asia but also among the United Nations (UN) and international community, and discussed measures to further develop policies. In particular, the Conference identified measures to link plans and goals, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002-2022) and Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030) with human rights of older persons, and discussed detailed and practical measures to enhance international cooperation.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-conference-global-ageing-and-human-rights-older-persons](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-conference-global-ageing-and-human-rights-older-persons)

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**2017-09-19/21** **South - Korea**

### **5th ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The subjects developing Training on Eco-Innovation for SMEs, Eco-Innovation Advisory Services for SMEs Cooperation, Eco-Innovation Capacity Building for the Governments have been discussed in-depth and concrete plans for 2017-2018 were generated. The ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC) and Ministry of SMEs and Start-ups (MSS) of the Republic of Korea have hosted the 5th ASEM Working Group (WG) Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence, which was held on 19-21 September 2017 in Seoul, Korea. The Seminar was to discuss the implementation of ASEM cooperative projects and development of new cooperation among ASEM member countries

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-working-group-seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-working-group-seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence)

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**2017-09-14/15** **China**

### **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, Socio-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 and progress made by ASEM Partners in promoting ASEM disability cooperation in the past 2 years, sharing knowledge and experience in promoting inclusive development for persons with disabilities, and discussed an action plan for future cooperation in the field of disability among ASEM Partners.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-high-level-meeting-disability](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-high-level-meeting-disability)

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**2017-09-07/08** **Myanmar**

### **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FMM13**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

The ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) was held on 7-8 September 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-3](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-3)

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**2017-09-06** **Myanmar**

### **2nd Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda

**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 FMM13).

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc)

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**2017-06-23/23** **Belgium**

### **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FMM13**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

The ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) 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-som-asem-fmm13](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-fmm13)

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**2017-06-21** **Belgium**

### **1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

**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. At the 11th 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc)

2017-06-19/20

China

## ASEM High-level Forum on Digital Connectivity: Unleashing Potential for Innovative Growth

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** ICT / Digital / Technology

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**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 transplation, 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.

Organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), 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 policymaking and professional practice/expertise.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-high-level-forum-digital-connectivity-unleashing-potential-innovative-growth](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-high-level-forum-digital-connectivity-unleashing-potential-innovative-growth)

2017-06-19/25

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** Socio-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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/foreign-policy-module-asem-diplomats-0)

2017-05-26/27

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, statistic collection as framework for

SDG 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 Bangkok, Thailand, has the following objectives: to promote sharing of experiences, best practices and expertise among ASEM Partners with regard to policy, practices and method for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and to provide a platform for networking and forging partnership 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-inter-regional-partnership-sustainable-development)

2017-05-25/26

Lithuania

## 1st ASEM Conference on Women's Economic Empowerment

**TYPE OF EVENT** 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 level that ensure equality and reduce gender gaps in political, economic, corporate and public life; women leaders and achievers who empower other women work/life reconciliation policies and initiatives; new technologies enabling gender equality; sharing of unpaid work at home; ways to address occupational segregation, advance education for women, including financial literacy 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: Creating Equal Opportunities in the World of Work was held on 25-26 May 2017 at the Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, Lithuania.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-conference-womens-economic-empowerment](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-conference-womens-economic-empowerment)

2017-05-24/27

Portugal

## 4th ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4)

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development, Migration

**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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm4)

2017-04-29/31

Vietnam

## ASEM Conference on Innovative Education & Human Resource Building for Sustainable Development

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Education and Research

→ CONNECTIVITY

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

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS People-to-people

ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

Participants highlighted that education is a key enabling factor in promoting sustainable and inclusive development, innovation and poverty reduction. The participants underscored the important role of education, particularly higher education, life-long learning and technical vocational education and training (TVET) for human resource 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.

Vietnam hosted the ASEM Conference on Innovative Education and Human Resource Building for Sustainable Development on 29-31 March 2017 in Hue, Viet Nam

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-innovative-education-human-resource-building-sustainable-development](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-innovative-education-human-resource-building-sustainable-development)

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

The 13th ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOMTI13) in preparation for the 6th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM6) was held on 28 April 2017 at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul, Korea. Vice Trade Minister WOO Tae-hee was among the speakers.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials%E2%80%99-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti13](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials%E2%80%99-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti13)

2017-04-26/27

Poland

## 11th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters

TYPE OF EVENT DG-Officials' Meeting

TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation

→ CONNECTIVITY

DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional

ASEM PILLARS 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.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-meeting-asem-working-group-customs-matters](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-meeting-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 PILLARS Physical

ASEM PILLARS 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.aseminfoboard.org/events/8th-asem-customs-trade-day](http://www.aseminfoboard.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 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

The 2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Sweden opened its call for applications from 18 April-24 May 2017. 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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-1](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-1)

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 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

The 2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Korea opened its call for applications from 10 April-16 May 2017

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-0)

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## 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 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

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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications)

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## 2017-02-13 Myanmar

### ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Culture and Tourism

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda

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

**ASEM PILLARS** 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 13 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 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) in 2017

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-promoting-tourism-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-promoting-tourism-0)

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## 2017-02-13 India

### 11th ASEM TEIN Cooperation Centre Governors' Meeting

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** ICT / Digital / Technology

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-tein-cooperation-center-governors-meeting](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-tein-cooperation-center-governors-meeting)

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## 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 PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

The two days technical sessions have highlighted the strengths as well as the further requirements 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 Phased Acquisition 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 organising an ASEM Workshop on Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts on 6-7 February 2017 in New Delhi.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-workshop-techniques-instruments-conservation-monuments-artefacts](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-workshop-techniques-instruments-conservation-monuments-artefacts)

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## 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 PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** 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 wherein 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 Confederation of Indian Industry, organised the ASEM Workshop on "Non-Invasive Technologies for Diagnostics & Treatment of Diabetes as a Lifestyle Disease" on Saturday, 4 February 2017 in New Delhi, India.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-workshop-diagnostics-technologies](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-workshop-diagnostics-technologies)

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## 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**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Chair's statement

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

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 TFAP and IPAP.

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 SOMTI12) on 2 December 2016 in Seoul, Korea.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials%E2%80%99-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti12](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials%E2%80%99-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti12)

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

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-sponsor together with Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, and Thailand. Under the motto, “Destined 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-3rd-asem-decade](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-water-nexus-agenda-3rd-asem-decade)

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**2016-11-09/19**

**South Korea**

### **1st ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting for ASEM ME6**

**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 (SOM) for the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6) on 9-10 November 2016, in Seoul, Korea.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-me6](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-me6)

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**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 2014.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-green-skills-sustainable-and-inclusive-growth-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-conference-green-skills-sustainable-and-inclusive-growth-0)

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**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-preneurship) 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](http://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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-seminar-cooperation-science-technology-innovation-sustainable-development)

**2016-10-03/05** **Denmark**

## **ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2016**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-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 3-5 October 2016 at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University in Copenhagen, Denmark.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-forum-lifelong-learning-2016](http://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 DRRM, including:

1. Science and Technology for effective and transparent decision- 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.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-meeting-disaster-risk-reduction-and-management-innovation-and-technology-resilience-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-meeting-disaster-risk-reduction-and-management-innovation-and-technology-resilience-0)

**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](http://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 Summit follow-up and preparations

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

The 11th Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF11) 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](http://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 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) Summit was held 15-16 July 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Leaders of ASEM partner countries were welcomed by HE Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-summit-asem11](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-summit-asem11)

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**2016-07-11/13** **South Korea**  
**ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Transport

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The goal is to diagnose a real problem in strengthening the physical connectivity of Eurasia continent to come up with an efficient solution by continuing to hold the ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics and with the help of ASEM member countries' active participation

Hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea and organized by the Korea Transport Institute, the ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics took place at Lotte Hotel Seoul in Seoul, 11-13 July 2016.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-eurasia-expert-group-meeting-transport-and-logistics](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-eurasia-expert-group-meeting-transport-and-logistics)

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**2016-07-04/06** **Mongolia**  
**11th Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF11)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM Forum

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Declaration

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

At the Summit, the major themes (or People's Visions) have been discussed. These can be listed as follows: Resources justice, Food security, Climate justice, Socially just trade, Social justice, Peace building and human security and Participatory Democracy, gender Equality and Minority rights.

Prior to ASEM11, the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) held its 11th biennial People's Forum on 4-6 July 2016 under the title Building New Solidarities: Working for Inclusive, Just, and Equal Alternatives in Asia and Europe. AEPF11 tackled strategies on major themes or People's Visions, representing the hopes of citizens of the two regions

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asia-europe-peoples-forum-aepf11](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asia-europe-peoples-forum-aepf11)

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**2016-06-22/24** **South Korea**  
**7th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM7)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Culture and Tourism

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Chair's statement

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

The following has been concluded:

1. The sustainable development of creative industry requires flexible government policies and responses to challenges.
2. The producers of cultural goods and practices must be involved with the commercial market in order to develop.
3. Although each country is different, there are several shared factors that are necessary for the common development of creative industries, such as networking, training, policy support and financial support.

The 7th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM7) on Culture and Creative Economy was held from 22-24 June 2016 in Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea. Information regarding the ASEM CMM7 is also available on the website at: [www.asem2016cmm.org](http://www.asem2016cmm.org).

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/7th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm7](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/7th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm7)

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**2016-06-20/21** **Mongolia**  
**ASEM Food Safety Seminar: Training of Farmers**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

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

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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-food-safety-seminar-training-farmers](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-food-safety-seminar-training-farmers)

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**2016-06-15/16** **South Korea**  
**ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Human Rights and Development

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Chair's statement

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Political, Socio-Cultural

Participants agreed on the need for the establishment of policies and institutions aimed at promoting Healthy Ageing, Active Ageing and Successful Ageing in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and that such policies and institutions should be based on a human rights perspective, in order to guarantee the dignity of older persons.

The ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons was held as a follow-up to the ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons (hereinafter referred as the ASEM Conference), which was held in October 2015 after the approval at the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10).

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-expert-forum-human-rights-older-persons](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-expert-forum-human-rights-older-persons)

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**2016-06-09/10** **Mongolia**  
**12th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FinMM12)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Finance

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Speeches, Press release

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The two day ministerial meeting concentrated on discussions on quality infrastructure investments, cross-border infrastructure and transport, broad approach to financial stability, while delegates also called for close 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-asem-finmm12](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-finance-ministers-meeting-asem-finmm12)

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## 2016/06/01 Poland

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-education-methodology-how-teach-europe-how-teach-asia](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-education-methodology-how-teach-europe-how-teach-asia)

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## 2016-05-31 / 06-02 South Korea

### **3rd ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

We expect the final outcomes from the Seminar as the following:

- Draw plans of collaboration projects to support SMEs in the ASEM region based on the result of discussion of the 2nd working group
- Declare for the cooperation of ASEM member states to support SMEs' eco-innovation
- Prepare a draft version of report summarizing the outcomes of the Working Group Seminars for the upcoming 11th ASEM Summit in 2016

ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC) and Small & Medium Business Administration (SMBA) of the Republic of Korea held the 3rd ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence from May 31-June 2 2016 in Seoul, Korea.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-working-group-seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-working-group-seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence)

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## 2016-05-12/13

**Mongolia**

### **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM11**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda

ASEM Senior Officials met on 12-13 May 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to discuss the future of ASEM, the ASEM 20th Anniversary celebrations, and other issues related to the preparation for the 11th 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-36)

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## 2016-05-09/10

**China**

### **ASEM Media Dialogue on Connectivity**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

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

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

- In this meeting the following topics will be discussed:
- ASEM connectivity today and tomorrow
- The relevance and role of media as a major stakeholder
- Harnessing the power of the media
- Visibility and sustainability of ASEM beyond 2016

As the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2016, connectivity has emerged to be one of the priority areas for cooperation between Asia and Europe.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-media-dialogue-connectivity](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-media-dialogue-connectivity)

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## 2016-04-25/27

**Brunei**

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

European and Asian representatives meet to discuss ways of enhancing customs cooperation between the two regions.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/10th-meeting-asem-working-group-customs-matters-awc](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/10th-meeting-asem-working-group-customs-matters-awc)

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## 2016-04-21/22

**Mongolia**

### **9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP9)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Declaration, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

ASEP Parliamentarians recognized the importance of mainstreaming connectivity into all relevant ASEM cooperation frameworks and agreed that greater connectivity between the peoples, parliaments and governments of Asian and European countries through development and improvement of trans-regional transport routes, corridors and networks, and promotion of exchange programmes will contribute towards increase of free flows of goods, services, capital and people leading to better understanding and closer relationship between the two regions.

The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) Meeting is part of the overall Asia-Europe partnership process. It serves as a forum for inter-parliamentary contacts, exchanges and diplomacy among parliaments, and to promote mutual understanding among the people and countries of Asia and Europe. ASEP meetings are convened on a regular bi-annual basis before the ASEM Summit alternately in Asia and in Europe.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/9th-asia-europe-parliamentary-partnership-meeting-asep9](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/9th-asia-europe-parliamentary-partnership-meeting-asep9)

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**2016-04-13/14**

**Russia**

### **ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting on Education (ASEM ME6 ISOM)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

The ASEM Education Secretariat held the ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM) on Education of ASEM ME6 with the theme, Global Connection for ASEM Education 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 Education Fair.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-intermediate-senior-officials-meeting-education-asem-me6-isom](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-intermediate-senior-officials-meeting-education-asem-me6-isom)

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**2016-04-01**

**Russia**

### **ASEM Roundtable on Migration Issues**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Migration

**DOCUMENTS** Draft concept paper / discussion paper

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

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

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-migration-issues](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-migration-issues)

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**2016-03-31 / 04-07**

**Vietnam**

### **ASEM Youth Week: Stronger Action to Address Zero Hunger Challenge**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Disaster Management / Resilience

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

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, Viet Nam on 31 March-07 April 2016.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-youth-week-stronger-action-address-zero-hunger-challenge](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-youth-week-stronger-action-address-zero-hunger-challenge)

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**2016-03-25/26**

**India**

### **ASEM Youth Dialogue**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** 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/asem-youth-dialogue-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-youth-dialogue-0)

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**2016-03-16/17**

**Latvia**

### **ASEM Transport Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM TMM SOM)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Transport

**CONNECTIVITY**

**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/asem-transport-senior-officials-meeting-asem-tmm-som](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-transport-senior-officials-meeting-asem-tmm-som)

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**2016-03-09/10**

**Slovakia**

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** 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 (SMBA) 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-working-group-seminar-eco-innovation-competence-smes)

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## 2016/02/02 South Korea

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** 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 (SOM) 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-asem-cmm7](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-cmm7)

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## 2016-01-18 China

### Preparatory Meeting for the 12th ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOMTI12)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Surveys / Annexes, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The participants exchanged views on priorities for ASEM economic, trade and investment cooperation, in particular the six priorities proposed by the co-sponsors and 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%E2%80%99-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti12](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/preparatory-meeting-the-12th-asem-senior-officials%E2%80%99-meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-somti12)

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## 2016-01-04 Malaysia

### ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Migration

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-countering-radicalisation-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-countering-radicalisation-0)

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## 2015-12-14/16 South Korea

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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** 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 the programmes per se.

During the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5) on 27-28 April 2015 in Riga, Latvia, the reports from the first phase of ASEM Working Group Meeting on Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship Skills were submitted by the Chairman, senior adviser Mr. Jørn Skovsgaard from the Danish Ministry of Education.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-working-group-innovative-competences-and-entrepreneurship-2nd-phase-opening-seminar](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-working-group-innovative-competences-and-entrepreneurship-2nd-phase-opening-seminar)

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## 2015-12-03/04 Bulgaria

### 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMCS)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**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 Hanoi 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.

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**2015-12-03** **Bulgaria**

**4th ASEM Social Partners' Forum**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The 4th ASEM Social Partners' Forum was held on the side-lines of the 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMC5).

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-social-partners-forum

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**2015-11-19/21** **India**

**2nd ASEM Roundtable on Green Building**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The outcomes of this session are the following:

1. Identification of opportunities for collaboration with other ASEM countries, including technology missions
2. Enhanced business exchanges/ technology transfer between India and other ASEM countries
3. Learning from each other's experiences on rating, GB knowledge, testing, product certification, technology certification

At the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM11) in November 2013 in New Delhi, India proposed that "Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings" would be a key area for cooperation.

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

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**2015-11-11/12** **Belgium**

**ASEM SPS and Food Safety Seminar: Promoting Cooperation and Coordination on Food Safety Standards (Scientific and technical aspects)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

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 recognise 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

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**2015-11-10/12** **South Korea**

**1st ASEM Working Group Seminar on Eco-innovation Competence of SMEs**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

Carrying the theme SMEs' Eco-Innovation Competence, aimed at elaborating common ground to support SMEs of participating countries toward sustainable growth, the proposed working group discussed crucial agendas on the development of SMEs in Asia and Europe

ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC) and Small & Medium Business Administration (SMBA) of the Republic of Korea held the 1st of ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence carrying the theme, SMEs' Eco-Innovation Competence.

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

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**2011-11-05/06** **Luxembourg**

**12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

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

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda, Chair's statement, Speeches, Press release

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political, Socio-Cultural

The focus of this meeting has been on climate change and connectivity, such as physical infrastructures, transport, energy, digital connectivity and people-to-people linkages. ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings, in addition to pursuing the ASEM dialogue under the first and third pillars (political dialogue, co-operation in other areas), are also responsible for the overall co-ordination of the ASEM process.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-foreign-ministers-meeting-asem-fmm12

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**2015-11-02/04** **Luxembourg**

**ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

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

Senior Officials from ASEM partners hold regular meetings for coordination work on ASEM activities.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-34

2015-10-29/30

Italy

## ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**CONNECTIVITY**

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

Italy organized a bi-regional dialogue in 2015, focused on ways to support the expansion of ASEM SMEs, as well as their international business and trade. The ASEM Seminar on Financing SMEs in Asia and Europe intended to provide a platform where policymakers and relevant business and financial stakeholders can share best practices, views and opinions, while drawing from significant findings, experiences and lessons learnt.

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/asem-seminar-financing-smes-asia-and-europe](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-financing-smes-asia-and-europe)

2015-10-29/30

China

## ASEM Cooperation on Disability

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Human Rights and Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

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

Call 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.

ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability will be held every two years, for exchanging best practices on disability cooperation among ASEM members, with a view to establishing an appropriate long-term mechanism of ASEM disability cooperation.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-cooperation-disability](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-cooperation-disability)

2015-10-29/30

Spain

## 4th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Defence and Security

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

Conclusions can be summarised as:

1. The relevance of the elaboration and having available national strategic approaches to education and training in a variety of disciplines covering aspects of nuclear safety, nuclear security, emergency planning.

2. International cooperation in nuclear safety and security constitutes a relevant objective

The 4th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety was held from 29-30 October 2015 in Madrid, Spain, addressing the issue of "Knowledge Management to Enhance Nuclear Safety", which has become a high priority for national and international organizations working to ensure the safe and sustainable operation of nuclear facilities around the world.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-seminar-nuclear-safety](http://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

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Human Rights and Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

The conference aimed to share best practices of legislation and policy of nations and efforts of governments for promotion and protection of human rights of older persons, identify key elements of the legislation and policy to protect human rights of older persons, and consider measures for cooperation among countries in Asia and Europe and international institutions for promotion of human rights of older persons.

With the approval of 10th ASEM Summit in 2014, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) held the 1st ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26-28 October 2015 in Seoul, Korea.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-conference-global-ageing-and-human-rights-older-persons](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-conference-global-ageing-and-human-rights-older-persons)

2015-10-07/09

India

## 11th ASEM Customs DG-Commissioners Meeting

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Declaration, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The participants recognized the need to continue to closely work together to ably 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 once 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 set forth 8 actions focusing on 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/11th-asem-customs-dg-commissioners-meeting](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-customs-dg-commissioners-meeting)

**2015-10-05/06** **Singapore**

### **13th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows**

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Migration

**→ CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Chair's statement, Surveys / Annexes

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

1. Participants agreed that biometrics technology was a key enabler for immigration and other law enforcement agencies to establish identity of persons while the move towards the use of biometrics depended on the risk for each country.
2. The participants agreed that the current operating environment remained volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA). Security facilitation and service had continued relevance to member countries.
3. The 13th ASEM Conference had enabled countries in Asia and Europe to share best practices and exchange views on challenges in migrant management.

The 13th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows was held under the theme, Migration Management Strategies.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-conference-directors-general-immigration-and-management-migratory-flows](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-conference-directors-general-immigration-and-management-migratory-flows)

**2015-09-30 / 10-02** **Indonesia**

### **2nd ASEM Seminar on Social Dialogue**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Human Rights and Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

In addition to the exchange of views, information and experiences, it is hoped that ASEM social dialogue could also explore more on tangible activities and cooperation among members

The ASEM Seminar on Social Dialogue focused on the theme "Promoting Social Protection Improvement through Social Dialogue in the Asia and Europe Region". The seminar aimed at information exchange of best practices, sharing on social dialogue development in the frame of Social Security setting in ASEM countries; and promoting the formulation of Social Security policy through social dialogue for cross-border workers in ASEM.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-seminar-social-dialogue](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-seminar-social-dialogue)

**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 ASEM10 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/asem-symposium-promoting-tourism](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-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 FMM12) 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-asem-som](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-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/asem-symposium-eurasia-transport-and-logistics-network](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-eurasia-transport-and-logistics-network)

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**2015-06-26/27**

**Singapore**

### **ASEM Seminar on Sustainable Management of Wastewater and Sanitation**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-sustainable-management-wastewater-and-sanitation)

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**2015-06-17/19**

**Belgium**

### **9th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Final Report

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The meeting focused on AEO, IPR and customs-business partnership. The meeting focused mainly on the progress of the 9 actions of the ASEM Customs Action Plan. In addition to that, a few other items were discussed.

European and Asian representatives regularly meet to discuss ways of enhancing customs cooperation between the two regions. The 9th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) was held from 18-19 June 2015 in Liège, Belgium. Some 70 participants from 41 ASEM members took part in the meeting.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/9th-meeting-asem-working-group-customs-matters-awc](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/9th-meeting-asem-working-group-customs-matters-awc)

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**2015-06-17**

**Belgium**

### **6th ASEM Customs-Trade Day**

**TYPE OF EVENT** DG-Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

The ASEM Customs Trade Day is an annual event held ahead of the ASEM Working Group 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-customs-trade-day)

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**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

**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 Ben Tre, Viet Nam. 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-strengthening-concerted-actions-water-management)

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**2015-06-01/30**

**Laos**

### **4th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue: Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development**

**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

the 3rd ASEM Sustainable Development Seminar on Water Management – Fostering Prosperity and Stability Through Inter-regional Cooperation, held in Tulcea, Romania, 2-3 June 2014.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5678/4th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-integrated-water-resources-management-for-sustainable-development](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5678/4th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-integrated-water-resources-management-for-sustainable-development)

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**2015-05-26/28**

**China**

### **ASEM Industry Dialogue on Connectivity**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**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 stake-holders to share and exchange valuable findings and thoughts on various aspects of connectivity, such as opportunities and challenges, ways of promotion, 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 Chongqing Municipal People's Government and China Centre for International Economic Exchanges.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-industry-dialogue-connectivity](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-industry-dialogue-connectivity)

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**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 policy-makers and experts involved in the implementation of sustainable forest management. Special attention will be given to good practices and the possibility of strengthening the application of sustainable forest management principles in formulating forest-related policies

The meeting aims to exchange experiences between policymakers and experts involved in the implementation of sustainable forest management in ASEM.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-meeting-sustainable-management-and-use-forests-policy-and-practice](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-meeting-sustainable-management-and-use-forests-policy-and-practice)

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**2015-05-22/23**

**Mongolia**

### **ASEM Seminar on Renewable Energy**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical

**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
5. Importance of creation and implementation of a mini network model project using the modern technology of renewable energy in order to reduce pollution etc.

The Ministry of Energy of Mongolia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism successfully co-organized the ASEM Seminar on Renewable Energy. The Seminar took place on May 22-23, 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and focused on the theme ASEM: Mongolia, Country of Renewable Energy

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-renewable-energy](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-renewable-energy)

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**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 policy and culture that cultivate and nurture the entrepreneurial ecosystem

The 4th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME4) held on 13-14 May 2013 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-workshop-fostering-entrepreneurship-higher-education)

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**2015-04-28/29**

**Latvia**

### **3rd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM3)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Transport

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic–Financial

In conclusion, the participants emphasized the important role of transport as an enabler of growth and prosperity,

took 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 TMM3) was held from 29-30 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-tmm3](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-transport-ministers-meeting-asem-tmm3)

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## 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

ASEM Senior Officials for Transport held a meeting to prepare for the 3rd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM3).

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-transport-senior-officials-meeting](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-transport-senior-officials-meeting)

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## 2015-04-27/28 Latvia

### 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

→ **CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Speeches, Final Report, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

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 ME5 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-me5](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-me5)

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## 2015/04/26 Latvia

### 2nd Preparatory ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

ASEM Senior Officials for Education met in Latvia prior to the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5) for final preparations.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-preparatory-asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-preparatory-asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem)

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## 2015-04-21/22

**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

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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-cooperation-science-technology-innovation-sustainable-development)

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## 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

Senior Officials from ASEM partners hold regular meetings for coordination work on ASEM activities.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-0](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-0)

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## 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**

**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

Overall, the content of meetings must be put centre-stage 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.

During the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held on 13-14 October 2014 in Milan, Italy, ASEM Senior Officials welcomed Thailand's proposal to host the "ASEM Symposium on the Future Direction of ASEM". The main objective of the Symposium was to take stock of ASEM's

achievements 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 ASEM and how to increase ASEM's relevance and visibility in the long-term.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-future-direction-asem](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-future-direction-asem)

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**2015-03-23/27**

**China**

### **4th ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC4)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

Themed "University-Business Partnerships: Asia and Europe Seeking 21st Century Solutions", the 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 environment through information and communication technologies.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-rectors-conference-arc4](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-rectors-conference-arc4)

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**2015-03-11/13**

**Thailand**

### **3rd ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM3)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Disaster Management / Resilience

**DOCUMENTS** Declaration, Chair's statement

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** 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 ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors (ASEM-MGM) serves as a venue for a dialogue on the municipal level between Governors and Mayors of cities in ASEM countries in Europe and Asia.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm3](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm3)

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**2015-03-09/12**

**Indonesia**

### **ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2015**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Declaration

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

The present tendency is that lifelong learning research offers new knowledge for devising solutions suited to different contexts in order to renew 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 hype 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 Renewing the Agenda for Lifelong Learning took place on 9-12 March 2015 in Bali, Indonesia to tackle the urgent need for lifelong learning in Asia and Europe.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-forum-lifelong-learning-2015](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-forum-lifelong-learning-2015)

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**2015-03-09/13**

**India**

### **Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/foreign-policy-module-asem-diplomats)

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**2015-03-04**

**Belgium**

### **4th ASEM University-Business Forum**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

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

6 presenters discussed questions like "How can higher education contribute better to the social, 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 better 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-university-business-forum)

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**2015-02-27**

**India**

### **ASEM Roundtable on Water Management Technologies**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

With the aim of supporting 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-water-management-technologies)

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**2015-01-18/21**

**Latvia**

### **5th ASEM ME Seminar on Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship Education**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Agenda

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-me-seminar-innovative-competences-and-entrepreneurship-education)

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**2014-12-04/05**

**India**

### **ASEM Roundtable on 'Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescue Efforts'**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Disaster Management / Resilience

**DOCUMENTS** Practical information, Final Report

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** 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%98innovations-technologies-disaster-rescue-efforts%E2%80%99](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-%E2%80%98innovations-technologies-disaster-rescue-efforts%E2%80%99)

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**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

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** 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.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-cooperation-industrial-rd-and-technology-alliances-life-sciences](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-cooperation-industrial-rd-and-technology-alliances-life-sciences)

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**2014-11-19/21**

**Philippines**

### **ASEM International Experts' Workshop on Stolen Assets and Hidden Wealth: Theft, Recovery and Restitution**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Defence and Security

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** People-to-people

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-international-experts-workshop-stolen-assets-and-hidden-wealth-theft-recovery-and)

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**2014-11-11/12**

**Latvia**

### **2nd ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration Working Group Meeting**

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**DOCUMENTS** Declaration

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

**ASEM PILLARS** Political, Socio-Cultural

1. The networks of national information centres in 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 ASEM 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-recognition-bridging-declaration-working-group-meeting)

2014-11-10/11

Latvia

### 1st Preparatory ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting for the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5)

**TYPE OF EVENT** Senior Officials' Meeting

**TOPIC** Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Socio-Cultural

Considering stability of the entire Education Process, the participants suggested to continue the four existing priorities: quality assurance and recognition; engaging business and industry in education; balanced mobility; lifelong learning including technical and vocational education and training

In preparation for the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME5), the 1st Senior Officials' Meeting of the ASEMME5 met from 10-11 November 2014 in Riga, Latvia.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-preparatory-asem-senior-officials-meeting-5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-me5](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-preparatory-asem-senior-officials-meeting-5th-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-me5)

2014-11-06/07

China

### ASEM Food Safety Week: Promoting Cooperation and Coordination between Asia and Europe

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Sustainable Development

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Economic-Financial

Advanced technologies in food safety management from developed countries in Asia and Europe were introduced. The Seminar promoted exchanges of processing enterprises as well as cooperation in food production across Asia and Europe.

Food industry experts in ASEM gathered to discuss industry coordination and cooperation in the field of food safety

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-food-safety-week-promoting-cooperation-and-coordination-between-asia-and-europe](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-food-safety-week-promoting-cooperation-and-coordination-between-asia-and-europe)

2014-11-04/06

Indonesia

### 3rd ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety

**TYPE OF EVENT** ASEM activity

**TOPIC** Defence and Security

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

**CONNECTIVITY PILLARS** Institutional

**ASEM PILLARS** Political

The seminar focused on the theme, "Effective, Transparent and Sustainable Nuclear Safety Infrastructure", aimed at continuing discussions on nuclear safety and to foster Asia-Europe capacity-building and cooperation in nuclear safety.

1. The floor agreed on the importance of international cooperation, especially with neighbouring countries, to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of nuclear safety infrastructure.
2. Participants agreed that the regulators are not in the position to judge which technology is better. Therefore, those countries interested to introduce NPPs should consult all the types available in the market.

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](http://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.

[www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-me-seminar-innovative-competences-and-entrepreneurship-education](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-me-seminar-innovative-competences-and-entrepreneurship-education)

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-asem-cmm6](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm6)

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**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-som-6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm6](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-preparatory-som-6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm6)

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**2014-10-16/17** **Italy**

**10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10)**

**TYPE OF EVENT** Summits

**TOPIC** Trade and Economic Cooperation, Defence and Security, Sustainable Development

**\*\*> CONNECTIVITY**

**DOCUMENTS** Chair's statement

**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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/10th-asem-summit-asem10)

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