



Annual Report 2019

Contents

3	About ASEM
4	About ASEF
5	Message from the Chairman of the Board
6	Message from the Acting Executive Director
7	ASEF Board of Governors 2019
8	Executive Office
9	Culture
17	Education
26	Governance
26	Economy
34	Media
40	Sustainable Development
40	Public Health
50	Human Resources
52	Finance & Administration
55	Publications
57	Websites
58	Social Media





Asia-Europe Meeting

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently, it comprises 53 Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat.

ASEM's foremost event, the ASEM Summit, is a biennial meeting amongst Heads of State and Government, the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, and the ASEAN Secretary General. As a build up to the Summit, ASEM Ministerial meetings take place amongst the different areas of focus. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

Through its informal process based on equal partnership and enhancing mutual understanding, ASEM facilitates and stimulates progress but does not seek to duplicate bilateral and other multilateral relationships between Asia and Europe.

ASEM PARTNERS

ASIA

Australia	Japan	New Zealand
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Pakistan
Brunei Darussalam	Korea	Philippines
Cambodia	Lao PDR	Russian Federation
China	Malaysia	Singapore
India	Mongolia	Thailand
Indonesia	Myanmar	Viet Nam

EUROPE

Austria	Greece	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Bulgaria	Ireland	Slovakia
Croatia	Italy	Slovenia
Cyprus	Latvia	Spain
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Sweden
Denmark	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	United Kingdom
Finland	Netherlands	
France	Norway	
Germany	Poland	

ORGANISATIONS

ASEAN Secretariat	European Union
-------------------	----------------

OVERVIEW



53 Partners



Informal political process



Dialogue & cooperation



Strengthening links
between Asia & Europe

3 PILLARS



Political



Economic & Financial



Social, Cultural &
Educational



In 1997, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) was established by ASEM Partners as its only permanent institution. ASEF seeks to promote understanding, strengthen relationships and facilitate cooperation amongst the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. The contributions of ASEF to civil societies are acknowledged by Leaders at ASEM Summits and ASEM Ministerial Meetings. Located in Singapore, ASEF reports to a Board of Governors and is publicly funded by voluntary contributions from its 53 ASEM Partners. The cost of many ASEF projects are also shared by other institutions as well as private partners.

Our Mandate

To promote mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges

Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which Asians and Europeans shape the future together - respectfully, fairly, and sustainably.

Our Mission

We provide opportunities to connect the people of Asia and Europe for an exchange of ideas. We encourage cooperation towards innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges. We complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process.

OVERVIEW



Contributes to 3rd ASEM pillar: social, cultural & educational



Publicly funded by voluntary contributions from 53 ASEM Partners



Reports to a Board of Governors

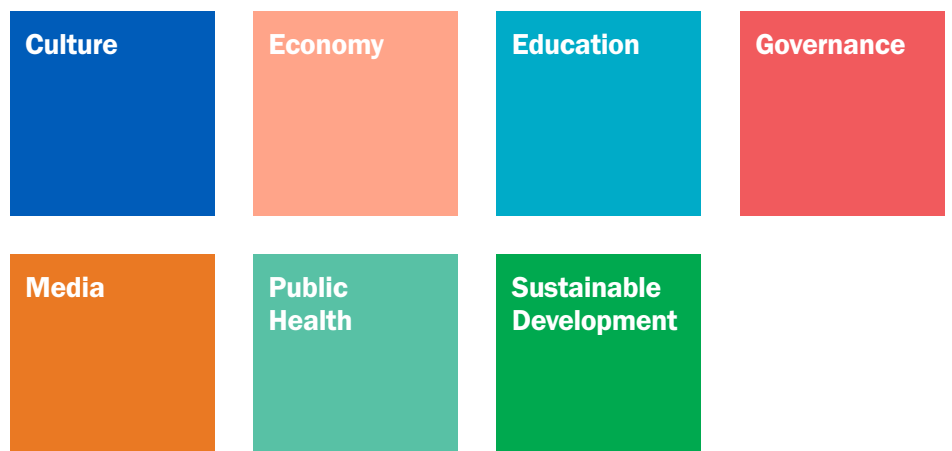


Based in Singapore

CORE VALUES

Diversity
Respect
Sustainability
Learning
Professionalism
Accountability

7 THEMATIC AREAS



Message from the Chairman of the Board

The worsening impact of climate change, cross-continent pandemic threats, digitalisation and other complex challenges besiege societies today. They require concerted efforts and solutions across continents. All of which reaffirms our strong belief in the continued relevance of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). ASEF serves the relevant need for constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and collaboration to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges.

ASEF projects over the past two decades have contributed towards these commendable efforts. For example, the *Asia-Europe Environment Forum* helps ignite debate on climate change policy and dilemmas; the *ASEF Public Health Network* promotes a bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases; the *ASEF Classroom Network Conference* facilitates discussions and mutual learning from each side of the continent to tackle challenges on Education for Sustainable Development in the digital age; ASEF's governance programmes, which include the *ASEF Public Diplomacy Training Initiative* and the *Informal ASEM Human Rights Series*, enable capacity building and civil society-government dialogue on key issues of our times. On top of these initiatives, ASEF continues its important work across a spectrum that span the arts and culture, economy, and media. In so doing, ASEF has focused on priority areas of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) as well.

ASEF complements the ASEM process. Last year, for instance, ASEF participated actively in several events on the side-lines of the *14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting* in Madrid in December 2019. Apart from contributing towards the highly successful *ASEM Cultural Festival*, ASEF concurrently organised the *12th ASEF Journalists' Seminar* and *9th Model ASEM*, showcasing the many fruitful paths of collaboration between the two regions.

I would like to commend ASEF for its valuable contribution towards strengthening the bonds of friendship between the people and civil society from Asia and Europe. I would also like to express my appreciation to the ASEF Team for their hard work and dedication in producing many meaningful programmes. As we enter 2020, I look forward to witnessing ASEF's continuing good work in its 23rd year of establishment.



Ambassador SHIOJIRI Kojiro
Chair, ASEF Board of Governors



Message from the Acting Executive Director



As ASEF's Deputy Executive Director since 2017, and presently its Acting Executive Director, I have witnessed ASEF having gone through a wave of changes. Challenges have created opportunities for us to learn and grow. In the process, ASEF has striven to move from strength to strength in fulfilling our purpose: to continually create avenues of dialogue and cooperation between Asians and Europeans.

ASEF is unique. Acting as an interface between civil society and government, ASEF complements the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). It contributes significantly to the dialogue process by bringing together people and institutions from diverse fields, sharing their experiences in a spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding.

In 2019, ASEF, along with its partner countries and organisations, organised close to 100 activities across Asia and Europe. Through seminars, workshops, conferences, publications, web portals, grants and public talks, ASEF's projects spanned 7 thematic areas: Culture, Economy, Education, Governance, Media, Public Health & Sustainable Development. Some examples of our programmes include the Informal ASEM Human Rights Series, the ASEF Public Health Network, and the ASEF Public Diplomacy Training Initiative.

A highlight of ASEF's activities takes place at the side-lines of ASEM's annual keystone events which, in 2019, was the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Madrid, under the theme "*Asia and Europe: Together for Effective Multilateralism*." In conjunction with the event, ASEF organised the 12th ASEF Journalists' Seminar, which gathered young Asian and European journalists

for a training-oriented event under the topic "*Media Trust & Information in the Digital Age*." Meanwhile, the ASEM Cultural Festival titled "*Asia and Europe: Cultures Connect*" involved more than 40 artists from over 10 Asian and European countries to showcase the artistic and cultural diversity of the two regions. Finally, the 9th Model ASEM brought together youths from the two regions for a conference where they successfully honed their diplomatic, negotiations and public-speaking skills. In addition, ASEF co-organised a side-event at the 25th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid under the framework of our *Asia-Europe Environment Forum*.

Last year, we also embarked on an exercise of increased financial prudence of public funds entrusted to us. This will translate into concrete improvements both in the way we operate on a day-to-day basis and how every project and activity will be implemented. As we enter a new decade in 2020, the long-term sustainability of ASEF would be of prime importance as we continue to evaluate and re-shape our programmes to deliver meaningful and effective projects in alignment with the ASEM Process.

Let me end by thanking our stakeholders—ASEM governments, partners, alumni—for their continued support of ASEF. I would also like to thank past and present ASEF staff for their unwavering commitment to our work. We look forward to working closely with our friends and supporters in realising ASEF's vision: a world in which Asians and Europeans shape the future together—respectfully, fairly, and sustainably.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SUN Xiangyang'.

Mr SUN Xiangyang
Acting Executive Director, ASEF

ASEF Board of Governors 2019

ASEF is governed by a Board of Governors, appointed by ASEM Partners.

ASEAN Secretariat	Mr Robert Matheus Michael TENE Dr A.K.P MOCHTAN (until Sept 2019)
Australia	Ms Kate DUFF
Austria	Ms Gabriele MEON-TSCHÜRTZ
Bangladesh	Ms Nahida Rahman SHUMONA
Belgium	Ambassador Andy DETAILLE
Brunei Darussalam	Mr Pengiran Indera Jaya bin Pengiran SHAMSU
Bulgaria	Dr Ludmila DIMITROVA
Cambodia	Mr CHEUY Vichet (until Nov 2019)
China	Ambassador ZHANG Xiaokang
Croatia	Ambassador Dražen MARGETA
Cyprus	High Commissioner Agis LOIZOU
Czech Republic	Ambassador Milan HUPCEJ Ambassador Rudolf HYKL (until Apr 2019)
Denmark	Ambassador Dorte Bech VIZARD Ambassador Prof Jørgen Ørstrøm MØLLER (until Sept 2019)
Estonia	Mr Mart LAIDMETS Ms Tea VARRAK (until Apr 2019)
European Union	Dr Steven EVERTS
Finland	Ms Eva BIAUDET
France	Ambassador Hervé LADSOU
Germany	Prof Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN
Greece	Ambassador Dr Sotirios MOUSOURIS
Hungary	Ambassador Dr István SZERDAHELYI
India	High Commissioner Jawed ASHRAF
Indonesia	Ambassador Soemadi BROTODININGRAT
Ireland	Ms Maeve GALLAGHER
Italy	Ambassador Raffaele LANGELLA
Japan	Ambassador SHIOJIRI Kojiro
Kazakhstan	Ambassador Arken ARYSTANOV Ambassador Dr Usen SULEIMEN (until Jul 2019)
Korea	Ambassador CHOI Sung-joo
Lao PDR	Mr Songkane LUANGMUNINTHONE
Latvia	Ms Inna ŠTEINBUKA

Lithuania	Ambassador Gediminas VARVUOLIS
Luxembourg	Mr Robert GOEBBELS
Malaysia	Ms Rus Shazila OSMAN Ambassador Norman MUHAMAD (until Sept 2019) Ambassador Dato' Kennedy JAWAN (until Mar 2019)
Malta	High Commissioner Clifford BORG-MARKS
Mongolia	Ambassador TUMUR Lkhagvadorj
Myanmar	Ambassador Htay AUNG
Netherlands	Mr Ernesto H BRAAM
New Zealand	High Commissioner Jo TYNDALL High Commissioner Jonathan AUSTIN (until Feb 2019)
Norway	Ambassador Anita NERGAARD
Pakistan	High Commissioner Rukhsana AFZAAL High Commissioner Nasrullah KHAN (until Nov 2019)
Philippines	Ambassador Joseph D. YAP
Poland	Ambassador Magdalena BOGDZIEWICZ
Portugal	Ambassador Luís João DE SOUSA LORVÃO
Romania	Mr Gheorghe MAGHERU
Russian Federation	Ambassador Andrey TATARINOV
Singapore	Prof Leo TAN Wee Hin
Slovakia	Ambassador Michal KOTTMAN
Slovenia	Ms Petra KEŽMAN Ambassador Nataša PRAH (until April 2019)
Spain	Ambassador Santiago MIRALLES Mr David NAVARRO (until Feb 2019)
Sweden	Ms Kamilla LINDSTRÖM
Switzerland	Ambassador Fabrice FILLIEZ
Thailand	Dr Darnp SUKONTASAP
United Kingdom	High Commissioner Kara Owen CVO High Commissioner Scott WIGHTMAN (until Jun 2019)
Viet Nam	Ambassador NGUYEN Tien Minh



Executive Office

The Executive Office, headed by the Acting Executive Director, takes management decisions based on the guidelines set by ASEM governments and the ASEF Board of Governors.

Left to right

HUANG Haiqi, Office Assistant (China)

SUN Xiangyang, Acting Executive Director (China)

Sanja DUNDOVIC, Executive Assistant (Slovenia)

Not in picture

Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director (Germany) until December 2019

Meera BAL, Executive Office Manager (Singapore) until January 2020



Culture

ASEF's work in Culture connects arts communities in Asia and Europe through online platforms, grants and events.

From left to right:

Kerrine GOH, Project Officer (Singapore)

Anupama SEKHAR, Director (India)

Andrea ABELLON, Project Executive (Singapore)

Preeti GAONKAR, Project Manager (India)

Valentina RICCARDI, Senior Project Manager (Italy)

Not in picture

Agnès DELMAS, Administrative/Project Executive (France) until August 2019

Fatima AVILA, Project Manager (Philippines) until January 2020

Culture

ASEF promotes cultural relations based on fair exchange and reciprocity. ASEF's work in culture connects artists, cultural professionals, non-profit arts organisations, networks & museums within the 53 partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF's work in Culture is organised under three pillars:

1. Providing access to information on arts, culture & heritage
2. Supporting mutual cultural practice by supporting face-to-face encounters and opportunities for mutual learning among artists and cultural professionals (through travel grants and capacity-building workshops)
3. Facilitating conversations between the arts communities in Asia and Europe. We also support multi-stakeholder dialogue between civil society and government agencies responsible for culture, both at UNESCO and through the Culture Ministers' Meetings of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) dialogue forum.

In 2019, ASEF was a stakeholder member of the **Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends**; a member of **On The Move (OTM)** mobility information platform; and, an affiliate member of the **International Federation of Arts Councils & Culture Agencies (IFACCA)**

In alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda, ASEF's work in Culture contributes to the following sustainable development goals:



Supporting Mutual Cultural Practice

Mobility First!

ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative, a travel grant for artists & cultural professionals.

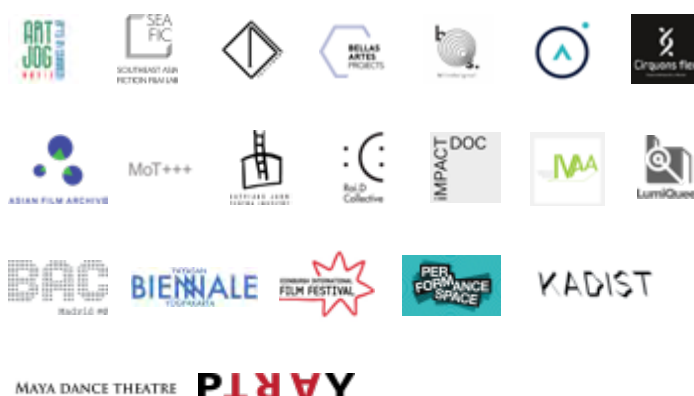
[Learn more ►](#)

- » 1,400 applications received from 50 ASEM countries
- » 137 cultural professionals from 25 ASEM countries supported to participate in relevant arts events (conferences, trainings, residencies, festivals etc) in 29 ASEM countries
- » 4 special open calls launched with co-funding partners:
 - For women and minority groups (in partnership with the Prince Claus Fund)
 - For artists in conflict (in partnership with Cambodian Living Arts)
 - Promoting South-South mobility (in partnership with Cambodian Living Arts)
 - For nationals of Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Viet Nam (supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

CO-FUNDERS



PARTNERS



LOCATIONS

Australia	Mongolia
Bangladesh	Myanmar
China	Netherlands
Denmark	Norway
France	Pakistan
Germany	Philippines
Greece	Portugal
India	Russian
Indonesia	Federation
Italy	Singapore
Japan	Spain
Kazakhstan	Switzerland
Korea	Thailand
Latvia	United Kingdom
Malaysia	Viet Nam

ASEF enabled 3 cultural professionals from India to participate in the ESKWELA: Art Educational Programme (5–7 June 2019, Makati City, Philippines)



Participants at the workshop *Curatorship: Concept, Design and Practice—Training for Senior Museum Curators* (5–8 October 2019, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam)

ASEF Roadscool

Capacity building and training
for cultural professionals

[Learn more ►](#)

- » Practical Approaches to Cultural Policy in the Mekong Region - Training for Cultural Professionals
- » Curatorship: Concept, Design and Practice - Training for Senior Museum Curators

LOCATIONS

Cambodia
Viet Nam

DATES

13-15 AUG 2019
5-8 OCT 2019

PARTNERS



Ho Chi Minh City
Department of
Culture and Sports

War Remnants
Museum



ASEF Roadscool has brought together all the Directors and Senior Curators for strategic project development in Ho Chi Minh City. We strongly recommend the continuation of this important initiative.

Dr Thao Xuan

Director, War Remnant Museum,
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Providing Access to Information

culture360.ASEF.org

A digital platform on arts, culture & heritage

Learn more ►

- » 230,000 unique online visitors annually
- » Over 50 weekly curated updates on arts news, events and funding opportunities
- » Over 40 commissioned articles a year on topics of common interest for Asia and Europe, partially selected through an open call process
- » 8 media partnerships with relevant arts events in Finland, Germany, India, Netherlands, Pakistan, Spain, UK
- » 2 new editions of the Mobility Funding Guides series published (Italy & Malaysia)
- » 2 new Green Guides published in the Creative Responses to Sustainability series (Portugal & Spain)
- » 1 new guide published in the Craft & Innovation series (Cambodia & Lao PDR)

PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



culture360.ASEF.org Arts Journalism Matters Series: support to the Asian Arts Media Roundtable (23–25 May 2019, Singapore)

asemus.culture360.ASEF.org

The website of the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)

Learn more ►



ASEF Unplugged-Singapore: The role of museums in the 21st century (26 March 2019, Singapore)

Facilitating Conversations

ASEF Unplugged: Conversations on the Arts in Asia & Europe

An event series that encourages open & informal peer-to-peer discussions amongst cultural professionals

[Learn more ►](#)

- » 20 ASEF Unplugged events in 11 ASEM countries
- » Co-hosted by 26 partner organisations
- » Total of 1,350 cultural professionals brought together

LOCATIONS

India	Croatia
Japan	Lithuania
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Malaysia	Cambodia
Singapore	United Kingdom
Slovenia	

CO-HOSTS





“

...[ASEF Unplugged] was the perfect kick-start before an official gathering of art managers and practitioners. Plugging into the thoughts and opinions from those at the ground level, the event brought together practitioners and funders on a platform looking at the business of applying for and developing guidelines for grant support. The audience and panelists were candid about each other's expectations and limitations, and the event ended with a sense that connecting and meeting in the middle was highly possible.”

June Tan

Producer, Five Arts Centre
(Malaysia)

Special Project in Support of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

ASEF Support to the ASEM Cultural Festival

An annual arts festival held alongside ASEM Summits and ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings

[Learn more ►](#)

LOCATIONS

Belgium
Spain

DATES

6 DEC 2019
11-15 DEC 2019

- » In 2019, the **ASEM Cultural Festival** titled '**Asia & Europe: Cultures Connect**' was an official side-event of the **14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM14)**
- » 41 artists participated in 7 performances, 2 art exhibitions and 3 workshops
- » Over 1,000 people attended the various events which were held at 8 different venues
- » 4 music concerts presented merging of musical styles from East & West as well as traditional & contemporary
- » 3 dance performances staged innovative interpretations of classical and modern dance forms
- » 2 art exhibitions showcased diversity of cultures and traditions through interactive experiences
- » ASEM Leaders commended the Festival for "strengthening people-to-people exchanges between Europe and Asia" (**Chair's Statement, ASEMFMM14**)

PARTNERS



This project is funded by the European Union.



SUPPORTERS



[View more on Flickr ►](#)



Between Tiny Cities ពិសេសក្រុងតូក្យូ, a hip-hop performance dovetailing b-boy vocabulary with contemporary dance showcased the result of a cultural exchange project between Australia and Cambodia (15 December 2019, Madrid, Spain)



Education

ASEF's work in Education contributes to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Lifelong Learning (LLL) opportunities.

Standing (left to right)

Réka TÓZSA, Project Manager (Hungary)
Freya CHOW-PAUL, Project Officer (United Kingdom)
Meera BAL, Project Manager (Singapore)
Jyoti RAHAMAN, Project Officer (Bangladesh)
Andy CHAN, Project Officer (Singapore)

Seated (left to right)

Hege KALLBEKKEN, Project Officer (Norway)
Leonie NAGARAJAN, Director (Germany)
Angie TOH, Senior Administrative/Project Manager (Singapore)

Not in picture

Oscar BOIJE, Project Manager (Finland) until December 2019
Ross CHEUNG, Project Executive (China) until October 2019
Martin VIDANES, Project Executive (Philippines) until September 2019
Akhil THOMAS, Project Officer (India) until March 2019
Nathalie SAJDA, Project Manager (Sweden) until February 2019

Education

ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) promotes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and focuses on two areas within this field: 1) Inclusive & Diverse Education Systems and 2) Digitalisation in Education. Its interdisciplinary projects engage young people, teachers & educators, academics & university leaders, education technology experts as well as education policy makers. The projects advance education policy dialogue and lifelong learning in the form of experiential teaching, learning and capacity building.

ASEF's education projects are recognised as official side-events of ASEM Education Ministers' Meetings (ASEMMEs), ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings (ASEFMFs) and ASEM Summits.

In alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda, ASEF's work in Education contributes to the following sustainable development goals:



ARC7 student leaders shaping policy recommendations for the deliberation of the 51 ASEM Education Ministers (12 May 2019, Bucharest, Romania)

Education Policy

7th ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7)

A multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university and student leaders, policy makers and education practitioners to advance higher education policies and internationalisation

[Learn more ►](#)

- » Official Dialogue Partner and side-event of the **7th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME7)**
- » 5-day Policy Dialogue on "Higher Education Taking Action Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Perspectives from Asia and Europe"
- » 150 leaders of higher education institutions, experts, government officials and 51 student leaders from all 51 ASEM Partner countries
- » Development of Policy Recommendations by the students and rectors for the deliberation of the ASEM Education Ministers; watch the **summary video** of the Policy Recommendations
- » Over 7,000 student applications
- » Adoption of Students and Rectors' Policy Recommendations as Annex of the **ASEMME7 Chair's Conclusions**
- » Engagement of European Youth Press as official media partner and production of special edition of the **European Youth Press' Orange Magazine**

LOCATION

Romania

DATES

11–15 MAY 2019

CO-ORGANISERS



PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



This project is co-funded by the European Union



ARC7 partners presenting the Rectors' Policy Recommendations to the host of the 7th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (14 May 2019, Bucharest, Romania)

ASEF Capacity Building Training on Equitable Access to Higher Education

Capacity building training for university managers to promote and advance equitable access in their home institutions

[Learn more ►](#)

- » Side-event of the World Access to Higher Education Day 2019 Global Summit at the University of Edinburgh
- » 20 participants and 8 trainers/resource persons from 21 ASEM Partner countries
- » Training conducted by the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON), United Kingdom
- » Development of individual action plans by participants for implementation at their universities
- » Engagement of European Youth Press and production of **special edition of the European Youth Press' Orange Magazine**

CO-ORGANISERS



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

LOCATION

United Kingdom

DATES

24-27 NOV 2019



Day 1 of the ASEF Capacity Building Training on Equitable Access to Higher Education (24-27 November 2019, Edinburgh, United Kingdom)



ASEF-supported participants at WELS2019 where they had the opportunity to learn about latest trends and challenges on school leadership (25-27 September 2019, Zug, Switzerland)

ASEF Support to the World Education Leadership Symposium 2019 (WELS)

The World Education Leadership Symposium (WELS) is one of the largest academic Symposia on Educational Leadership in Europe

[Learn more ►](#)

- » Focus on “Responsible Leadership: Demands, Reality, Possibilities” with over 850 participants from 75 countries
- » 8 ASEF ClassNet teachers and teacher trainers from secondary-level education sector funded by ASEF to participate (Greece, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malta, Malaysia, Philippines, and Slovenia)
- » Contribution to 8 academic papers on school leadership in Asia and Europe

PARTNERS

IBB

Institute for the Management
and Economics of Education
University of Teacher
Education Zug

A photograph of Hon Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, Malta. He is a middle-aged man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, a light blue striped shirt, and a dark blue patterned tie. He is holding a black microphone and looking towards the camera with a serious expression. In the background, a woman with long dark hair is partially visible, looking off to the side. The setting appears to be an indoor event or conference.

“

I think students have a lot to tell us. I was very happy to notice in the policy recommendations of the students that their definition of inclusion is very wide: it includes political beliefs, religion, ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation and disability. Higher education institutions should be also assessed in terms of how inclusive they are.”

Hon Evarist BARTOLO
Minister for Education
and Employment, Malta

Young Leaders

Model ASEM Mediators Training 2019

A capacity building training for youth on the ASEM Process and moderation & facilitation skills

[Learn more ►](#)

- » 14 youth participants from 14 ASEM Partner countries trained in preparation to be Resource Persons for the 9th Model ASEM
- » Skills training on chairing and facilitating policy debates, policy drafting and negotiating

PARTNERS



LOCATION

Malta

DATES

30 JUL – 4 AUG 2019



Training of 9th Model ASEM Resource Persons at the inaugural Model ASEM Mediators Training (30 July - 4 August 2019, Mosta, Malta)

Model ASEM Spin-off Edition 2019

Small scale Model ASEM youth conference, organised by local student representatives to create awareness of the ASEM Process

[Learn more ►](#)

- » 3 days in Valletta, Malta (2-4 August, 2019), simulating the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM)
- » 28 youth participants from 17 ASEM Partner countries
- » **Video message** from HE Dr George VELLA, President of Malta
- » 2 Dialogue Sessions with ASEM Ministers on Asia-Europe relations, including Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, HE Carmelo ABELA, and Minister for Education and Employment of Malta, Hon Evarist BARTOLO
- » Panel discussion with ASEM Ambassadors from Australia, China and Germany

PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



Youth Participants with Hon Evarist BARTOLO (Minister for Education and Employment) (2-4 August 2019, Valletta, Malta)

9th Model ASEM (ModelASEM9)

In conjunction with the **14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM14)**, a first-hand introduction to the world of diplomacy, negotiation and international relations [Learn more ►](#)

- » Over 7,200 student applications
- » 1 ASEM-wide youth survey on Effective Multilateralism with over 8,000 respondents
- » 128 youth participants from all 51 ASEM Partner countries
- » 6 weeks Online Preparatory Phase, including webinars, individual tasks and group collaborations
- » 5 days simulating the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in plenary sessions, bilateral meetings and Senior Officials Meetings
- » 3 dialogues with ASEM Leaders including HE Dr Miroslav LAJČÁK, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs for the Slovak Republic
- » **18 personal meetings** between youth participants and their respective ASEM Foreign Ministers and Officials
- » **18 study visits to ASEM Embassies**, gaining insights into the importance of Diplomatic Missions in bilateral and multilateral relations
- » Delivery of the **9th Model ASEM Youth Intervention** at the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, calling for "A structured dialogue between ASEM Leaders and the Youth integrated into the ASEM Process"

LOCATION

Spain

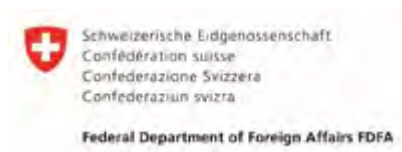
DATES

11–16 DEC 2019

PARTNERS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SUPPORTED BY



Made possible by the support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



ASEF's contribution is made possible with the financial support from the Government of Japan



Opening Plenary of the 9th Model ASEM (11-16 December 2019, Madrid, Spain)



“

Only when you start to see the world through the eyes of others, you truly begin to understand the world. This happened to me in various conversations with persons from cultures to which I otherwise would not have had easy access.

Also, the dreams and ambitions of the other outstanding participants inspired me to continue my way with an even more international focus. Model ASEM taught me, that it is only together that we are verily strong.”

Ms Michaela STADLMAYR
Student, Johannes Kepler
University Linz, participant
from Austria

Teaching and Learning

15th ASEF ClassNet Conference (ASEFClassNet15)

Capacity building and networking platform for secondary and high school teachers, to encourage peer-to-peer learning and advance meaningful integration of technology in the education sector

Learn more ►

- » 5-day conference and capacity building on “Education for Sustainable Development and AI: Role and Readiness of Teachers”
- » 6-week Online Preparatory Phase for participants, including 4 webinars, a photo campaign on ASEM Classrooms, research and ASEM students survey
- » 1,664 applications received from principals, teachers and educators
- » Over 100 participants from 51 ASEM Partner countries, including principals and teachers from secondary and high schools, researchers and academics, EdTech experts as well as policy makers
- » Mr ASHIDATE Satoshi, Senior Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) as keynote speaker
- » 45 Asia-Europe school collaborations initiated and implemented with ASEF ClassNet Awards conferred to 6 ASEF School Collaborations
- » 2 School Collaborations initiated for 2020 focusing on Internet of Things (IoT) and STEM as well as “Gender Equitable AI and AI for Gender Equality”
- » 18 Asia-Europe School exchange programmes organised by participants

LOCATION

Japan

DATES

25–29 NOV 2019

PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



Over 100 teachers, teacher trainers, education researchers and representatives from businesses and governments, learning and discussing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) (25-29 November 2019, Tokyo, Japan)



Governance

Economy

ASEF's work in the areas of Governance and Economy enable capacity building and civil society-government dialogue on key issues of our times.

From left to right

Simon PIOLDI, Project Officer (Germany)

Armi Hannele AARNI, Project Manager (Finland)

Yannick BINEAU, Associate Director (France)

Iulia LUMINA, Project Officer (Romania)

Trishia OCTAVIANO, Project Executive (Philippines)

Elizabeth DY, Administrative Executive (Philippines)

Not in picture

Genevieve BARRÉ, Director (France) until January 2019

Governance

Respect for human rights, rule of law, effective participation and accountability of public institutions are some areas that lay the foundation for good governance. ASEF encourages informal, open and non-confrontational dialogue between civil society and government representatives in this field, through its current project series on human rights and public diplomacy.

Through its annual seminars and trainings, ASEF monitors and analyses developments in the Asia-Europe context in order to identify and address relevant policy issues that require further improvement. Through the exchange of expert knowledge and best practices among Asian and European participants, ASEF enables both sides to learn from each other while benefiting society as a whole.

In alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda, ASEF's work in Governance contributes to the following sustainable development goals:



Asian and European participants exchanging best practices on public diplomacy strategies at the 7th ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (21-25 October, Siem Reap, Cambodia)

Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series

19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

[Learn more ►](#)

LOCATION

Norway

DATES

4–6 NOV 2019

The 19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Education and Training (ASEMHRS19), which was held in Tromsø, Norway, brought together over 120 experts, academics and government representatives from Asia and Europe to discuss the state of human rights education and training and how to further strengthen the implementation of and access to human rights education at the ASEM level.

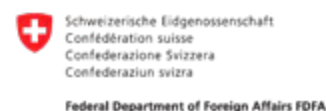
Despite clear commitments made by governments in Asia and Europe, it was noted that the implementation of human rights education and training has been rather slow. Participants shared views that in order to build on the momentum of this global/regional human rights education movement, it is important to invest in the human rights education infrastructure; strengthen support for educators; ensure more coordination and coherence in legal and policy frameworks, as well as in research and evaluation.

The Seminar, which brought together participants from 44 ASEM Partner countries, was hosted by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Arctic University of Norway, (UiT).

Read the ASEMHRS19 **Key Messages** and **Background Paper** on our website.

- » The most northern location for the Seminar to date
- » 123 participants from 44 ASEM Partner countries
- » Launch of the online podcast series: Conversations on Human Rights Education
- » Launch of the seminar app
- » Participation and representation of local indigenous peoples, the Sámi
- » New partnerships established with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Arctic University of Norway
- » Gender balance: 58% Female; 42% Male
- » Regional balance: 45% Asian and 55% European participants

PARTNERS



SPONSORS



Participants of the 19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (4–6 November 2019, Tromsø, Norway)

18th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights – Training

[Learn more ►](#)

The Training component of the 18th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS18) started off with the official launching of the **18th Human Rights Seminar Publication**. Ms Irene M. SANTIAGO, internationally renowned peace negotiator and 1 of the 2 Main Rapporteurs of the ASEMHRS18, presented the main points of the publication and highlighted the recommendations drawn from the Working Groups at the Seminar held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The following panel discussion themed as the “*Role of Human Rights Education (HRE) in Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE)*,” aimed to enable a common understanding of the basics of HRE and to gain insights into the impact that HRE can have on preventing violent extremism.

Over the course of 3.5 days, participants explored the problems and possible solutions to apply a human rights- based approach to PVE in the context of Asia-Europe relations. The training particularly

focused on the practical methods to implement the **UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism** across local, regional and national levels. Besides sharing the key messages of the ASEMHRS18, the training attempted to enhance participants' knowledge on human rights and violent extremism and to build their ability to promote the latter's prevention through their daily achievements.

The ASEMHRS18 **Key Messages, Seminar Report** and **Background Paper** are available online.

- » 25 participants from 18 ASEM Partner countries (composed of government officials and civil society members)
- » Launch of the 18th Human Rights Seminar Publication
- » Gender balance: 55% Female; 45% Male
- » Regional balance: 55% Asian and 45% European participants

LOCATION

India

DATES

18-20 SEP 2019

PARTNERS



This activity was co-funded by the European Union

**RAOUL
WALLENBERG
INSTITUTE**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



SPONSORS



Participants, trainers and organisers of the 18th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights - Training (18-20 September 2019, New Delhi, India)



“

We must keep discussing human rights, and exchange views and experiences. In this work we must involve everyone – experts, academics, researchers, practitioners, journalists and civil society – to ensure a full and enriching debate.

The broad composition of ASEM makes it ideal for this kind of informal, yet thorough and serious discussions.”

Ms Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Norway

ASEF Public Diplomacy Training

7th ASEF Public Diplomacy Face-to-face Training (ASEFPDT7)

[Learn more ►](#)

The 7th Public Diplomacy Face-to-face Training, built on the practical lessons learned from the 8-week highly intensive online course, was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia. 32 participants representing 27 ASEM Partners had the rare opportunity to learn more about the various tools and strategies for shaping the perceptions of the foreign public on their countries, and for making their domestic policies better understood abroad. The Training also gave the participants a unique networking opportunity to connect with other diplomats and civil servants from across Asia and Europe.

ASEFPDT7 was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and welcomed not only the 32 participants, but also high-ranking

career diplomats and international affairs experts. Experienced trainers from the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) and the DiploFoundation (Diplo) led multiple sessions of the Training and contributed to the successful implementation of the Training programme.

The face-to-face Training is a follow-up to the online course conducted by the DiploFoundation, which took place between July and September 2019. The online course laid a good foundation for the participants' better understanding of the intricacies of public diplomacy. The usage of digital tools and social media played an important role in the face-to-face training, particularly, how to build a strong national brand through successful online and offline public diplomacy campaigns.

LOCATION

Cambodia

DATES

21-25 OCT 2019

- » 32 diplomats and civil servants from 27 ASEM Partner countries
- » 100% completion rate for the ASEFPDT7 online course – first time in all courses offered by the DiploFoundation
- » 1 new partnership established with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA.IC) of Cambodia
- » New training methodologies and modules introduced
- » Gender balance: 57% Female; 43% Male (2014-2019)
- » Regional balance: 43% Asian and 57% European participants (2014-2019)

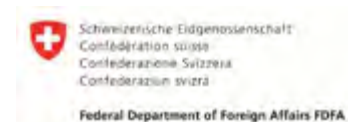


The ASEFPDT7 participants and organisers with H.E. Mr Fabrice FILLIEZ, Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore and H.E. Dr CHHEM Kieth Rethy, Minister Delegate Attached to the Prime Minister, MFA.IC of Cambodia

PARTNERS



SPONSORS





“

ASEM and ASEF provide a meeting point between Asia and Europe, foster dialogue and cooperation, and strengthen multilateralism – all aspects important for Switzerland's foreign policy. [ASEFPDT7] allows the exchange of knowhow while creating understanding among and bonds between young diplomats from the two regions.”

Mr Mathias DOMENIG

Deputy Head of Mission
of the Embassy of Switzerland
in Manila

Asia–Europe Economic Forum

16th Asia-Europe Economic Forum (AEEF16)

[Learn more ►](#)

LOCATION

Germany

DATES

28–29 NOV 2019

Together with the partners of the Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF), ASEF addresses current economic issues and long-term trends impacting Asian and European societies in line with ASEM's political and economic agenda concerning the international financial and economic situation across ASEM constituencies.

AEEF16, which took place in Berlin, Germany, was hosted and organised by the Bertelsmann Stiftung alongside Bruegel and the Centre d'Études Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII) on the European side; and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) on the Asian side. ASEF is a longstanding partner of the AEEF.

The topic of this year's AEEF was "EU-Asia Trade and Investment Connectivity". Participants gained a detailed insight into international trade and investment patterns between Asia and Europe. With connectivity being the new catchphrase, which symbolises the partnership between Asia and Europe, AEEF16 highlighted the importance of increased connectivity and its impact on customs, trade and investment, and the delivery of economic prosperity to both regions.

More than 20 high ranking speakers from various ASEM Partner countries had the unique opportunity to tackle Asia-Europe Connectivity in depth. Among them were H.E. Ambassador Ken WU from the People's Republic of China; Dr Alicia GARCÍA HERRERO, Senior Fellow at Bruegel; Prof Jean PISANI-FERRY from SciencesPo, Paris and the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin; and Prof Haihong GAO, Council Director of China Society of World Economy.

- » The 16th Asia-Europe Economic Forum brought together more than 50 policy experts, economists and scholars
- » Over the course of 2 days, the participants discussed the patterns of international trade and investment across Asia and Europe and the current drivers of the bilateral relation
- » Connectivity between Asia & Europe was the key word of this year's forum
- » How connectivity can facilitate customs; trade and investment; and the delivery of economic prosperity to both Asia & Europe



Asian and European senior policy makers and experts gathered at AEEF16 (28–29 November 2019, Berlin, Germany)

PARTNERS



This activity was co-funded by the European Union



BertelsmannStiftung





Media

ASEF's work in Media is managed by its Communications Department which is responsible for ASEF's corporate communications and also runs ASEM-wide projects.

From left to right

JIANG Linnan, Communications Officer (China)

Fatima AVILA, Communications Manager (Philippines)

Lawrence ANDERSON, Director (Singapore)

Gemma LUENGO, Communications Manager (Spain)

Martin VIDANES, Communications Executive (Philippines)

Not in picture

Gaffar ABDUL, Communications Officer (Singapore) until January 2020

Angelina CHEW, Admin / Communications Executive (Singapore) until January 2020

TEE Bee Lock, Director (Singapore) until October 2019

Pascal KUTA, Communications Officer (Poland) until June 2019

Media

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) creates unique networking platforms for the exchange of views and ideas as well as cooperation among mass media representatives of Asia and Europe. These events address themes aligned with the agenda of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which examine current issues relevant to Asia-Europe relations, challenges faced by the media industry, as well as the professional development of media personnel. Under the thematic area of media, ASEF organises two project series, each taking place on alternate years:

- » The ASEF Editors' Roundtable (ASEFERT) takes place alongside the ASEM Summits;
- » The ASEF Journalists' Seminar (ASEFJS) takes place alongside the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings (ASEM FMM).

The Communications Department increases awareness of ASEF and its projects across the ASEM region; oversees ASEF's websites and social media platforms; and also manages the **ASEM InfoBoard (AIB)**, which is ASEM's official information platform.

In alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda, ASEF's work in Media contributes to the following sustainable development goals:



In order to have a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach, Media projects include representatives from the media, policymakers, technology companies, and civil society to enable robust discussions and diverse opinions (13-14 December 2019, Madrid, Spain)

ASEF Journalists' Seminar

12th ASEF Journalists' Seminar Media Trust & Information in the Digital Age

Learn more ►

- » Open call receiving 982 applications from 49 ASEM Partner countries.
- » 27 attendees: 23 Participants (journalists, communication entrepreneurs and media professionals) and 4 observers (local media and Model ASEM) under 35 years, citizens of 26 different ASEM Partner countries.
- » 6 trainers and speakers from relevant media agencies, the private sector and academic Institutions from Asia and Europe
- » 7 Participants' projects presented
- » Live streaming on social media channels
- » Press: 46 appearances in media with an audience of 20,743,400 during the 2-day event (Agencia EFE data), and participants interviewed by National Spanish TV
- » ASEMFM14 press coverage and interaction with other ASEMFM14 side-events such as ASEM Cultural Festival and 9th Model ASEM

LOCATION

Spain

DATES

13-14 DEC 2019

**watch the
highlights ►**



PARTNERS



CASA ASIA



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



WAN-IFRA



The highly productive 2-day training-oriented event brought together with young journalists and media professionals from various ASEM Partner countries, including observers from Spanish Local Media and another ASEF side-event, the 9th Model ASEM.

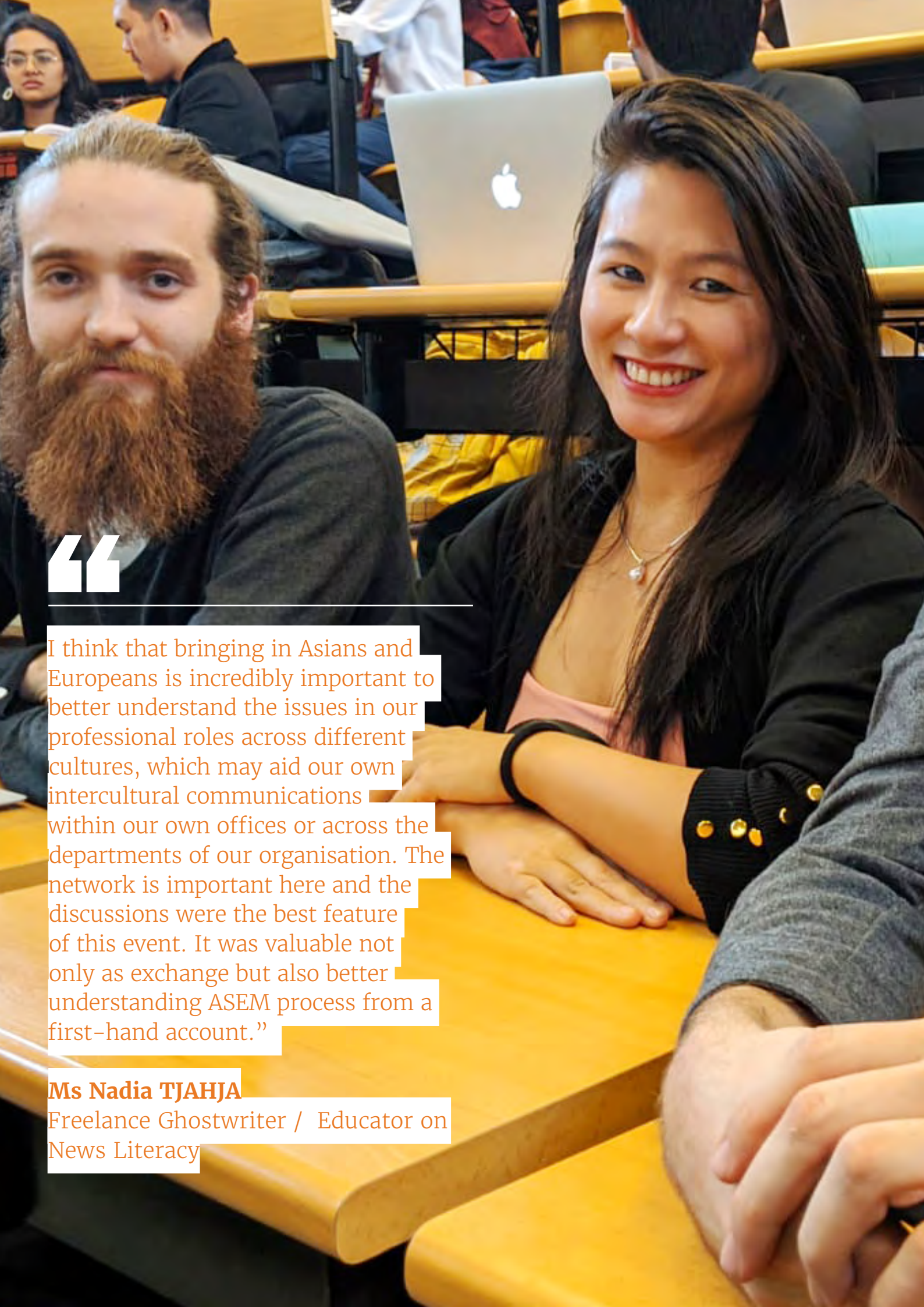


Participants Exchange: ASEFJS12 participants presented a project or initiative they were involved in to generate exchange of Asia-Europe values & experiences. In the picture Ms Sohara MEHROZE (Bangladesh) presenting Dhaka Hub of the Global Shapers Community.

ASEM relevance: As an official side-event of the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM14), ASEFJS12 participants were accredited as Press in the ASEM FMM14 and were able to attend the opening ceremony and press conference, managing to pose relevant questions.



Synergies with ASEM FMM14 Side-Events: Under the topic "Media Trust & Information in the Digital Age", ASEFJS12 also included interaction with other ASEM FMM14 side-events such as ASEM Cultural Festival and 9th Model ASEM. On the picture Mr Paul SEDILLE (France) explaining Model ASEM's Press Simulations.



“

I think that bringing in Asians and Europeans is incredibly important to better understand the issues in our professional roles across different cultures, which may aid our own intercultural communications within our own offices or across the departments of our organisation. The network is important here and the discussions were the best feature of this event. It was valuable not only as exchange but also better understanding ASEM process from a first-hand account.”

Ms Nadia TJAHA

Freelance Ghostwriter / Educator on
News Literacy

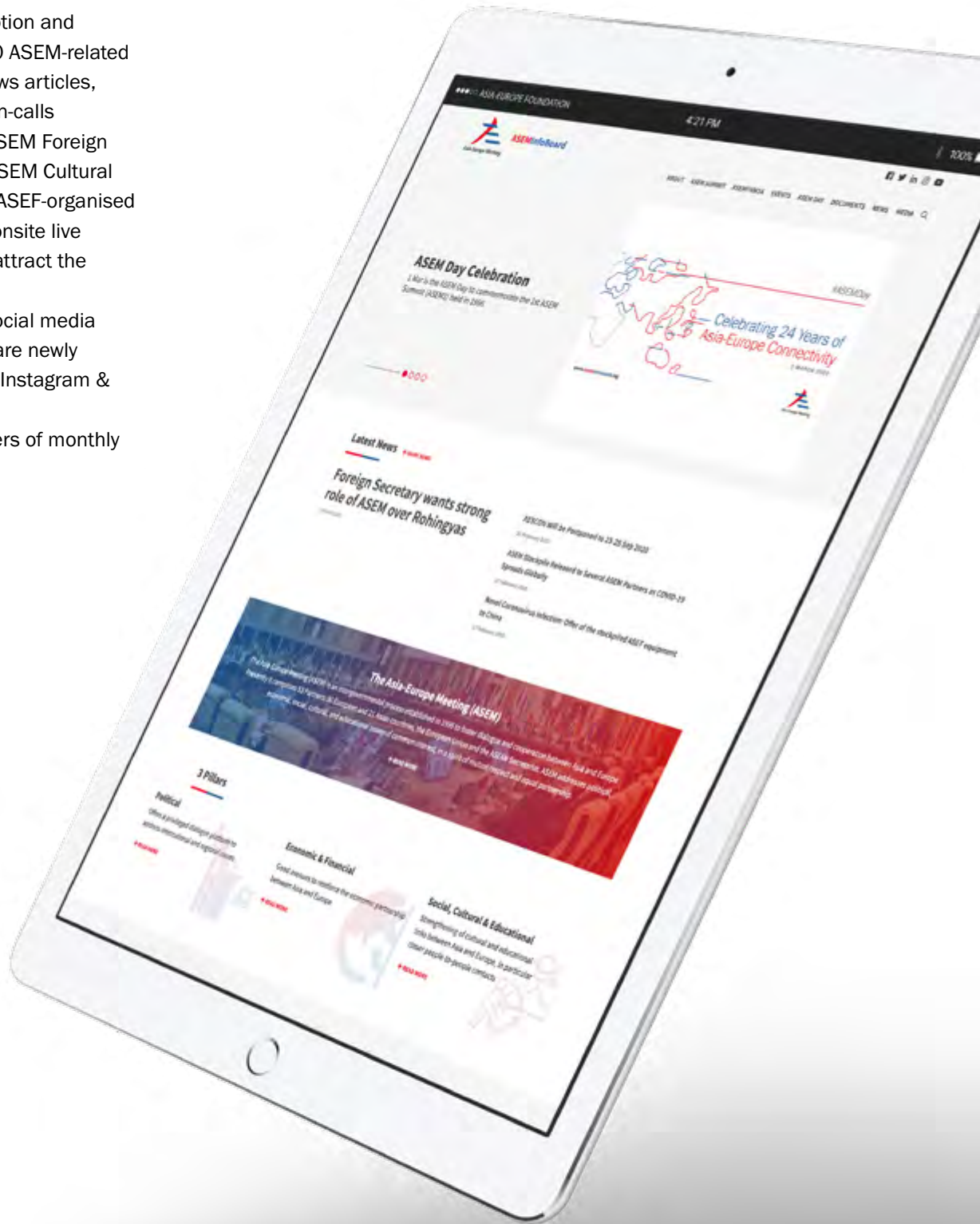
ASEM InfoBoard

ASEM InfoBoard (AIB)

The official information platform of the ASEM Process

Learn more ►

- » 74,000 unique online visitors annually to the AIB website
- » Supported 27 ASEM activities through online promotion and disseminated over 80 ASEM-related updates including news articles, publications and open-calls
- » Promoted the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, ASEM Cultural Festival 2019 and 2 ASEF-organised side-events through onsite live Instagram stories to attract the young generation
- » 4,500 followers on social media channels of which 3 are newly activated (Facebook, Instagram & YouTube)
- » Over 3,500 subscribers of monthly AIB e-newsletters





Sustainable Development

Public Health

ASEF's work in Sustainable Development and Public Health ignites debates in climate change policy and provides a dialogue platform for public health practitioners across the ASEM region.

From left to right

Kareena SAMTANI, Project Officer (Singapore)

Nur A'in A. RAZAK, Project Officer (Singapore)

SUN Xiangyang, Acting Director (China)

Grażyna PULAWSKA, Senior Project Manager (Poland)

Riko KIMOTO, Project Manager (Japan)

Public Health

The ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN) is part of the ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza. The initiative was officially launched in 2009 with financial support of the Government of Japan. ASEF PHN has been promoting bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases, including pandemic influenza.

In addition to achieving good health, the activities and events organised under ASEF PHN also aim to contribute to SDG 5: “Gender equality”, and SDG 17: “Partnerships to achieve the goal”. ASEF PHN strives to achieve an equal representation of males and females at their events, with a nearly 50-50 representation at their annual conference in 2019.

ASEF PHN is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: “Good health and well-being”. The United Nations stated that “ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development.” In line with the international efforts, ASEF PHN continues to provide a platform to encourage public health dialogue among ASEM Partners.

Additionally, ASEF PHN aim to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships. We aim to build on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships, and ensure viable conclusions and recommendations are developed for implementation at all levels.

In alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda, ASEF's work in public health contributes to the following sustainable development goals:



Simulation exercise at the High-level Meeting on Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies (18-19 September, Bangkok, Thailand)

High-level Meeting on Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies

Risk Communication Beyond the Country Borders

[Learn more ►](#)

In 2019, ASEF PHN, together with the Ministry of Public Health Thailand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan organised the High-level Meeting on Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies:

- » The meeting focused on risk communication beyond the country borders, where we looked at how public health emergencies within countries affect the international population
- » The meeting also looked into the impact of public health emergencies beyond the health sector
- » This meeting gathered the participation of more than 60 representatives from 28 countries and organisations, and these included government officials from both the health and non-health sector, members of international organisations, and representatives of the private sector, including the media and aviation industry
- » The outcome of the meeting has been highly applicable for situations such as the novel coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), as expressed by several participants from countries such as Finland and Japan

LOCATION

Thailand

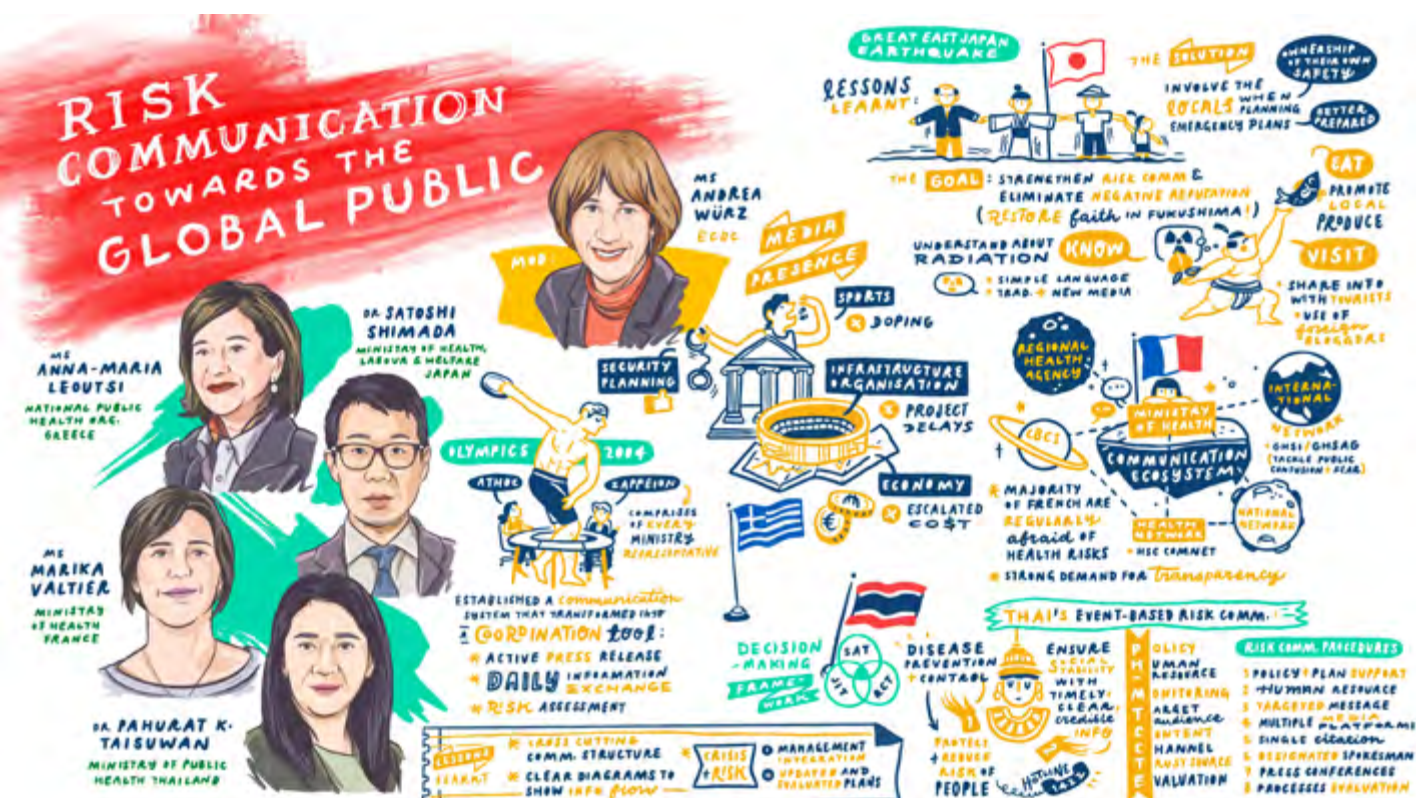
DATES

18–19 SEPT 2019

PARTNERS



ASEF's contribution is made possible with the financial support from the Government of Japan



ASEF PHN engaged in live graphic reporting during the meeting, where the graphic reporter summarised and illustrated key findings of the meeting in various posters.

Sustainable Development

Established in 2003, the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) is a partnership of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Government of Sweden through the Strategic Collaborative Fund administered by Stockholm Environment Institute (IGES).

The ENVforum aims to contribute to the formulation of sound decisions across all sectors that are mindful of their environmental, social and economic impacts and of the future generations. In doing so, we foster inter-regional cooperation between Asia and Europe on sustainable development and its environmental dimensions.

Today, the aims of the ENVforum are reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2013, the ENVforum has launched a programme to contribute to the bottom-up process that supports the implementation and monitoring of SDGs by providing Asian and European countries with key insights into sustainable development implementation.

ASIA-EUROPE ENVIRONMENT FORUM



Learn more
online ►



ENVforum aims to contribute to the following goals:



Currently, the ENVforum has a specific focus on SDG 12, which was selected based on its cross linkages to nearly all other goals. Additionally, ENVforum's work and focus, and the way its projects are conceptualised and organised are strongly aligned with SDG 17, apart from the other goals represented here.

To date, the ENVforum has organised over 70 high-level international conferences, roundtables and workshops bringing together multi-stakeholder representatives, and has produced multiple prominent research publications, country case studies, and policy papers.

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum) Consortium:



Financed by:



Sweden
Sverige



ENVforum

ENVforum Annual Conference 2019

The Role of Consumer in Triggering Changes in Consumption & Production

Learn more ►

- » The ENVforum's flagship event, the ENVforum Annual Conference, provided a space for multi-stakeholder, regional and international dialogue and knowledge sharing important for the success of the 2030 Agenda.
- » The conference explored good practices in promoting and implementing SDGs, with a focus on the role of the consumer in triggering sustainable production and consumption (SCP) and SDG12.
- » The conference saw the inclusion of health priorities when ensuring SCP, where experts discussed the future of food, with a special focus on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and sustainable lifestyle.
- » This was the first time the ENVforum brought in health-related issues as it is a topic that affects the global population, regardless of socio-economic status.
- » The conference put forward key messages and policy recommendations on the topic of single-use plastic and food-health-sustainability nexus.

LOCATION

Japan

DATES

29–30 JUL 2019



The graphic report summarising the key recommendations from the conference during the closing plenary.



Diversity of participants at the ENVforum Annual Conference (29-30 July, Yokohama, Japan)

“

The ENVforum Annual Conference has served its purpose in successfully bringing these different elements together. It's been a privilege to be part of the Agenda 2030's movers and shakers, where a number of significant, relevant priority topics and themes are presented and discussed in great length, allowing for an excellent exchange, and building a network amongst multi-stakeholders; all in the name of achieving a shared commitment of 2030 Goals.”

Ms Ira LARASATY

Switch-Asia SCP Facility
(Netherlands)



5th Regional Conference on SDG 12 Implementation

Measuring Implementation Progress in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam and the Philippines

[Learn more ►](#)

- » This conference was co-organised by ASEF and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), and was hosted by the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Lao PDR.
- » The focus of the event was the implementation of SDG 12 in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam and the Philippines.
- » The ENVforum also launched a study titled **“Sustainable Consumption and Production in Lao PDR after the Voluntary National Review: Policy Options for Effective Implementation and Monitoring”**.
- » It presents the current state of affairs and gives policy recommendations for short- and long-term changes to the Lao PDR's strategic plans across various ministries.

PARTNER



This activity was co-funded by the European Union



Polymakers from the 5 ASEM Partners and organisers at the conference
(26 March 2019, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR)



Mr Mikko KOSONEN,
President, Sitra,
giving opening
remarks at
WCEF2019 (3 June
2019, Helsinki,
Finland)

Publication Launch at the World Circular Economy Forum 2019

Closing the Loop: ASEM's Transition towards Achieving a Circular Economy

[Learn more ►](#)

- » The ENVforum hosted a side-event at the World Circular Economy Forum 2019 to launch its publication entitled **“Closing the loop: ASEM's transition towards achieving a circular economy”**.
- » The publication provides a bird's-eye view of how ASEM Partner countries approach the implementation of SDG 12 targets and integrate them into national strategies, target-setting, and monitoring activities.

LOCATION

Finland

DATES

5 JUN 2019



This activity was co-funded by the European Union

ENVforum @ COP25

Learn more ►

- » The ENVforum was proud to co-organise a series of side-events at the 25th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) held in Madrid, Spain.
- » The events covered a wide range of topics, including reducing the use of plastics, low carbon development, and climate change ambition for youth.
- » The events saw more than 150 attendees from around the world, and the ENVforum was able to showcase our work done among ASEM Partners, including our contributions towards achieving the SDGs, including climate change.
- » Not only was ASEM represented at this major international platform, but our presence also put ASEM on the map, giving us the reputation of contributing as an inter-government organisation on the global stage.

LOCATION

Spain

DATES

5-12 DEC 2019

PARTNERS



List of events co-organised by ASEM through the ENVforum at COP25, Spain

Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF) 2019

How we can achieve transformation needed

[Learn more ►](#)

- » Since 2013, ENVforum has been regularly contributing to the Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF) as a knowledge partner, bringing together experts on sustainable development and presenting outcomes of ENVforum research on SDGs.
- » SDTF 2019 focused centrally on what it will take to achieve the fundamental transformations in energy, industrial, food and other systems needed to shift courses from a Business-as-Usual path.
- » The forum explored diverse issues including the political economy and behavioural economics.

LOCATION

Korea

DATES

22-24 OCT 2019

PARTNERS



ASEF's Sustainable Development team showcasing our work during the panels and presentations at the forum (22-24 October 2019, Incheon, Korea)

Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production & Consumption 2019

Transforming Production & Consumption: Bridging Sustainability Research with Policy & Practice

[Learn more ►](#)

- » The ENVforum co-organised the 4th Global Research Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production which brought together researchers and practitioners engaged in research on the worldwide transition to sustainable production and consumption systems.
- » ENVforum organised a plenary session on the sustainable consumption and production of food, plastics, and textiles on 28 June 2019.
- » The session included presentations on the outcomes from the ENVforum Annual Conference 2018 held in Warsaw, Poland.

LOCATION

China

DATES

26–29 JUN 2019

PARTNERS



Ms Jaqueline KACPRZAK and Ms Ella ANTONIO sharing their group's outcomes during the session hosted by the ENVforum (28 June 2019, Hong Kong, China)



Human Resources

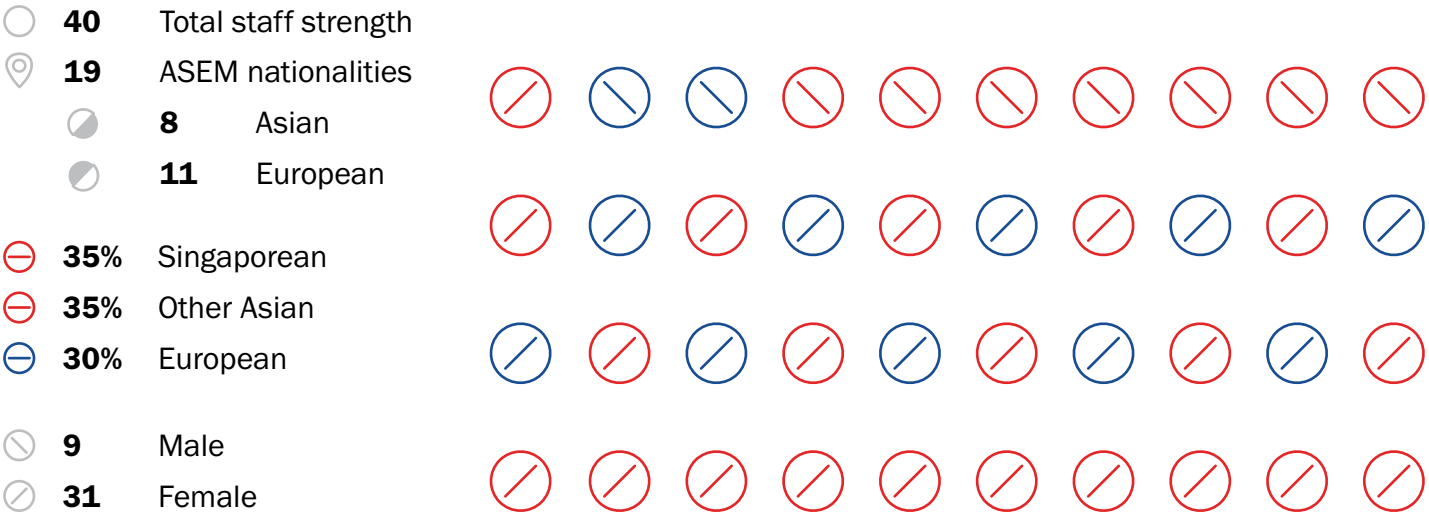
ASEF's Human Resources matters are managed by a team of local staff:

From left to right

Cynthia YEO, Human Resource Executive (Singapore)

KAW Jik Hoon, Director (Singapore)

Human Resources Overview



ASEF staff participating in *Yusheng* during Chinese New Year



Hari Raya Puasa lunch



Deepavali Celebration at ASEF



Staff fold paper decorations for the Christmas / year-end party



Finance & Admin

ASEF's Finance & Administration are managed by:

From left to right

YAM Lay Nah, Finance Manager (Singapore)

LAM Kong Chai, Director (Singapore)

Irene YAP, Accounts Executive (Singapore)

Eason CHONG, Accounts Executive (Malaysia)

Sarbjit KAUR, Accountant (Singapore)

Michael LASERNA, Administrative Executive (Philippines)

Enkhjin BAYARKHUU, Project Funds Manager (Mongolia)

Not in picture

Mohamed Basri Bin BORHAN, Chauffeur (Singapore) until December 2019

Crystal KOH, Director (Singapore) until May 2019

LEW Yen Ling, Senior Accounts Executive (Singapore) until May 2019

LIM Bee Gnoh, Finance Manager (Malaysia) until January 2019

Financial Information

Contributions received from ASEM Partners

*unaudited figures as at 05 March 2020

2019 INFORMATION (SGD)						YTD 1997 to 2019 (SGD)				
		2019 Total Contribution	2019 Operating	2019 Project	Reserve Fund	Year 2019	Total Contribution 1997 - 2019	Total Operating Fund	Total Project Fund (Incl. Trust Fund)	Total Reserve Fund
1	ASEAN Secretariat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Australia	53,474.16	53,474.16	-	-	53,474	517,764	517,764	-	-
3	Austria	53,889.96	53,889.96	-	-	53,890	2,223,495	2,223,495	-	-
4	Bangladesh	20,561.61	20,561.61	-	-	20,562	122,892	122,892	-	-
5	Belgium	11,341.76	-	11,341.76	-	11,342	2,632,771	1,111,460	114,632	1,406,678
6	Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	2,530,172	2,530,172	-	-
7	Bulgaria	33,402.16	33,402.16	-	-	33,402	439,737	439,737	-	-
8	Cambodia	13,762.70	13,762.70	-	-	13,763	170,515	170,515	-	-
9	China	692,695.00	332,493.60	360,201.40	-	692,695	10,017,278	7,913,892	2,103,387	-
10	Croatia	4,552.41	4,552.41	-	-	4,552	14,035	14,035	-	-
11	Cyprus	7,710.10	7,710.10	-	-	7,710	136,830	136,830	-	-
12	Czech Republic	35,246.49	35,246.49	-	-	35,246	780,848	780,848	-	-
13	Denmark	125,830.57	-	125,830.57	-	125,831	4,445,872	4,320,041	125,831	-
14	Estonia	15,520.35	15,520.35	-	-	15,520	228,989	228,990	-	-
15	European Union	-	-	-	-	-	25,093,556	4,389,163	18,850,993	1,853,400
16	Finland	38,068.27	38,068.27	-	-	38,068	4,020,863	4,020,863	-	-
17	France	245,918.59	30,864.83	215,053.76	-	245,919	8,635,946	1,752,712	5,868,834	1,014,400
18	Germany	307,890.00	307,890.00	-	-	307,890	9,016,306	9,016,306	-	-
19	Greece	-	-	-	-	-	403,401	377,871	-	25,530
20	Hungary	75,507.50	75,507.50	-	-	75,508	965,408	965,408	-	-
21	India	163,130.40	163,130.40	-	-	163,130	1,981,533	1,981,533	-	-
22	Indonesia	68,722.50	68,722.50	-	-	68,723	1,768,648	1,768,648	-	-
23	Ireland	152,529.75	152,529.75	-	-	152,530	2,872,151	2,872,151	-	-
24	Italy	-	-	-	-	-	2,248,811	2,248,811	-	-
25	Japan	150,657.16	131,265.00	19,392.16	-	150,657	14,230,497	5,081,533	9,148,964	-
26	Kazakhstan	29,692.40	29,692.40	-	-	29,692	120,596	120,596	-	-
27	Korea	274,600.00	274,600.00	-	-	274,600	6,964,808	5,276,870	345,900	1,342,038
28	Lao PDR	6,830.05	6,830.05	-	-	6,830	104,573	104,573	-	-
29	Latvia	34,756.65	34,756.65	-	-	34,757	461,914	461,914	-	-
30	Lithuania	30,147.00	30,147.00	-	-	30,147	312,432	312,432	-	-
31	Luxembourg	123,361.60	123,361.60	-	-	123,362	6,831,735	5,777,881	-	1,053,853
32	Malaysia	82,839.00	82,839.00	-	-	82,839	1,797,542	1,231,631	-	565,911
33	Malta	3,850.25	3,850.25	-	-	3,850	56,232	56,232	-	-
34	Mongolia	9,412.94	9,412.94	-	-	9,413	66,324	66,324	-	-
35	Myanmar	27,679.20	27,679.20	-	-	27,679	390,845	390,845	-	-
36	Netherlands	106,913.10	-	106,913.10	-	106,913	3,632,771	3,525,858	106,913	-
37	New Zealand	55,000.00	55,000.00	-	-	55,000	864,965	864,965	-	-
38	Norway	104,127.93	104,127.93	-	-	104,128	1,008,129	970,632	37,497	-
39	Pakistan	34,257.89	34,257.89	-	-	34,258	439,374	439,374	-	-
40	Philippines	85,640.96	85,640.96	-	-	85,641	1,424,322	1,424,322	-	-
41	Poland	76,737.00	76,737.00	-	-	76,737	1,244,666	1,244,666	-	-
42	Portugal	22,895.60	22,895.60	-	-	22,896	1,506,177	628,863	-	877,313
43	Romania	30,194.06	30,194.06	-	-	30,194	420,903	420,903	-	-
44	Russian Federation	204,043.50	204,043.50	-	-	204,044	1,405,811	1,405,811	-	-
45	Singapore	273,657.00	273,657.00	-	-	273,657	8,679,076	5,249,776	-	3,429,300
46	Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	125,413	125,413	-	-
47	Slovenia	15,398.60	15,398.60	-	-	15,399	338,697	338,697	-	-
48	Spain	45,447.60	45,447.60	-	-	45,448	3,004,022	3,004,022	-	-
49	Sweden	154,752.24	154,752.24	-	-	154,752	3,481,921	3,481,921	-	-
50	Switzerland	177,140.60	177,140.60	-	-	177,141	1,268,468	1,268,468	-	-
51	Thailand	109,701.01	109,701.01	-	-	109,701	2,648,497	1,250,383	-	1,398,114
52	United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	2,363,734	1,038,609	1,325,125	-
53	Viet Nam	40,914.60	40,914.60	-	-	40,915	770,207	770,207	-	-
TOTAL SGD		4,430,402.22	3,591,669.47	838,732.75	-	4,430,402	147,232,476	96,237,860	38,028,076	12,966,538

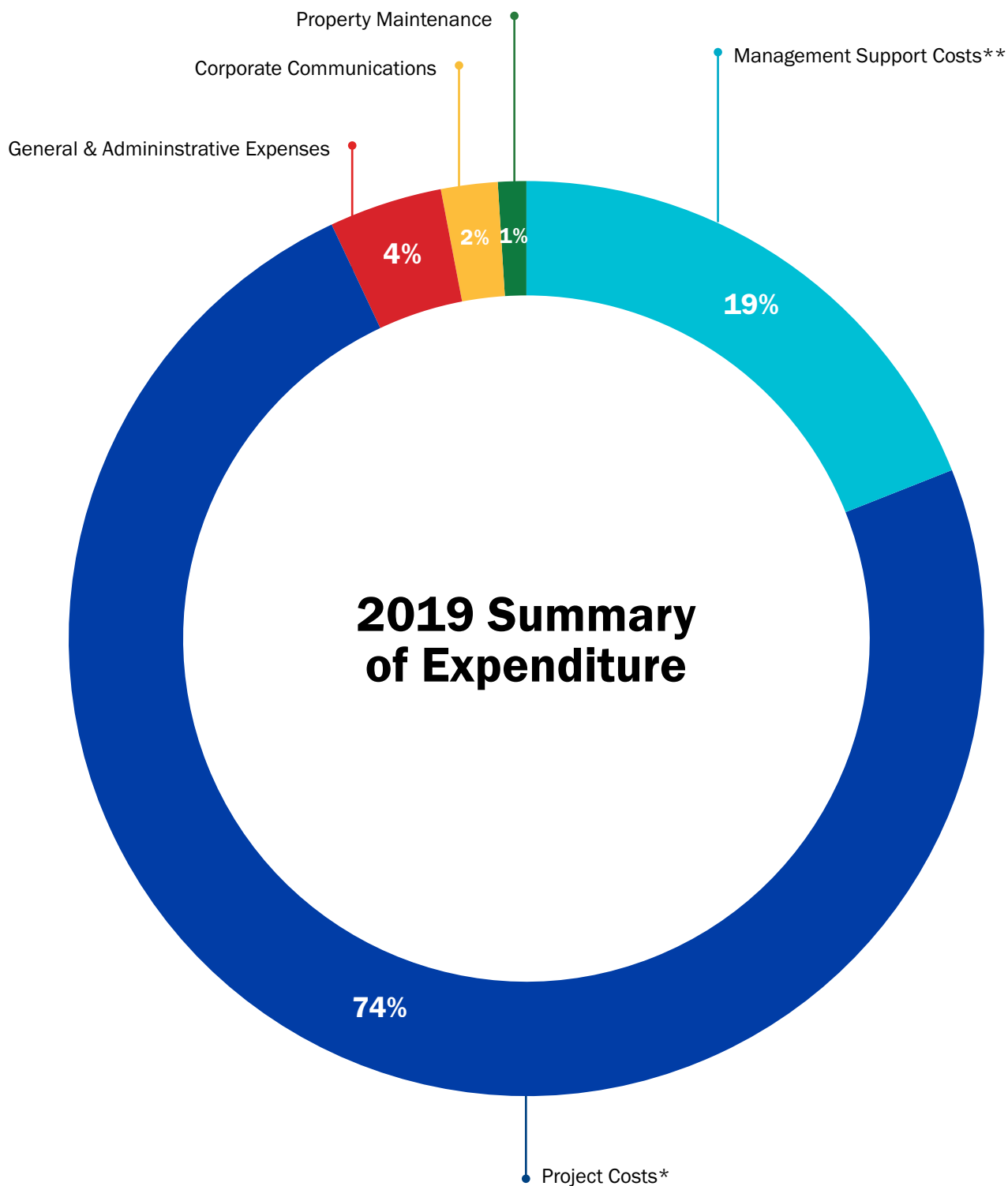
This table (denominated in Singapore dollars) lays out the receipt of funding from ASEM members countries by calendar year for reference.

The financial year for Years 1997-2005 was from 1 April to 31 March. In 2006, the financial year was changed to end on 31 December.

NOTE: Receipts have been converted to SGD at transaction date rates

The contributions received from ASEM Members are placed under the following funds in accordance with the declarations made by the contributors:

- Operating Fund Contributions received are utilised for the operating requirements of ASEM.
- Project Fund Contributions received are utilised for the funding of projects. In the case of trust funds, contributions received are ear-marked for specific projects, the utilisation of which requires prior approval from the contributing member.
- Reserve Fund Contributions received are invested, with income generated being used to finance activities of ASEM if necessary.



ASEF's annual audit has not been completed at the time of printing. The financial figures reported on pages 53 to 54 are unaudited figures. ASEF's audited financial statements are available separately at a later date.

***Project Costs** also include project secretarial/staff costs

****Management Support Costs** include Executive Office costs and staff costs (Management & Administration)

Publications



Mobility Funding Guides: Malaysia
(March 2019)
[Read Online ►](#)



Mobility Funding Guides: Italy
(October 2019)
[Read Online ►](#)



Creative Responses to Sustainability: Portugal Green Guide
(June 2019)
[Read Online ►](#)



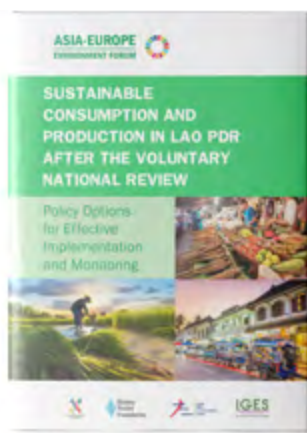
Creative Responses to Sustainability: Spain Green Guide
(September 2019)
[Read Online ►](#)



The Creative Resource Guide: crafting Laos and Cambodia
(May 2019)
[Read Online ►](#)



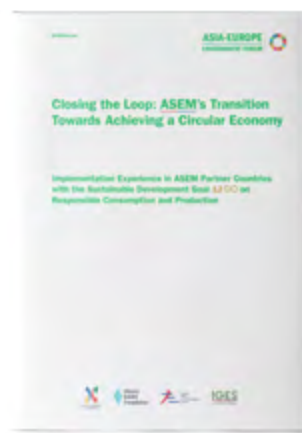
Human Rights and Prevention of Violent Extremism
(2019)
[Read Online ►](#)



Sustainable Consumption and Production in Lao PDR after the Voluntary National Review

Policy Options for Effective Implementation and Monitoring

Read Online ►



Closing the Loop: ASEM's Transition Towards Achieving a Circular Economy

*Implementation Experience in ASEM Partner Countries
with the Sustainable Development Goal 12 on Responsible
Consumption and Production*

Read Online ►



ASEM Partners' Guide for Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies

How can we include Migrants & Ethnic Minorities?

Read Online ►



High-level Meeting on Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies: Risk communication beyond the country borders

Conclusions and recommendations

Read Online ►

Websites

www.ASEF.org

The first stop for information about the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). It showcases our current programmes and upcoming activities spanning 7 key thematic areas of work: culture, economy, education, governance, media, sustainable development, and public health. In addition to information about participation in our projects, visitors will also have access to ASEF publications, signing up to the ASEF newsletter, as well as links to all our partner organisations.



www.ASEMinfoboard.org

The official platform of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), it serves as the primary source of information for all ASEM affairs including the ASEM Process, ASEM Partner countries, ASEM initiatives and events. It also plays a key role in elevating ASEM's profile in the public eye.



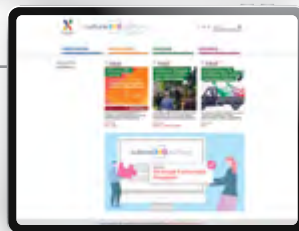
arc.ASEF.org

The dedicated website for the ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC) series and its spin-off activities. ARC was organised for the first time in 2008, as a civil society response to the 1st ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME1). Since then, it has become the Official Dialogue Partner and side-event of the ASEM MEs. Its results, including policy recommendations and research, feed into the preparation of the ministerial meetings. The website provides comprehensive information on the ARC editions and their spin-offs, and also serves as a knowledge repository featuring research, commissioned papers, student surveys, opinion articles produced by the participants on the ARC topics.



culture360.ASEF.org

ASEF's information hub for arts and culture communities across Asia and Europe offering up-to-date information on arts, culture and heritage from 53 ASEM Partners. For over 12 years, this portal has served as a "one stop shop" for relevant arts news, opportunities, and events that are relevant for individual artists, arts organisations and cultural policymakers in the ASEM region, in line with the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG16. It remains the only website offering such a service in the ASEM context and has been recognised as a good model of information exchange between the two regions by UNESCO, the UN's agency for culture and the European Union.

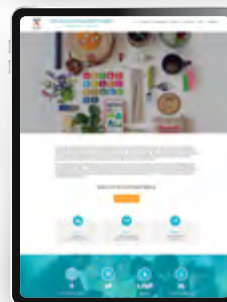


mobilityfirst.ASEF.org

The website of Mobility First! - a travel grant of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). Launched in 2017, Mobility First! enables cultural professionals in Asia and Europe to participate in activities that would benefit their professional development and encourage their positive contributions to society. The website provides information on open calls, co-funding partnership possibilities, and hosts a platform for grantees to form a network and forge future collaborations.

classnet.ASEF.org

The ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet) is a network of secondary, vocational and high schools, teachers and students across Asia and Europe that seeks to use cutting-edge technology in education to improve intercultural understanding. The ASEF ClassNet web-portal serves as the main platform for communication, networking and collaboration among teachers and students from Asia and Europe.



Social Media

Facebook

29.7% Growth Rate in Fans
77K Engagements
2.8M Users Reached

Facebook Channels:

- » **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**
- » **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)**
- » **ASEFEdu**
- » **ASEF Public Health Network**
- » **ASEF Culture360**
- » **ENVforum**

Instagram

38.7% Growth Rate in Followers
5.8K Engagements

Instagram Channels:

- » **@asef_edu**
- » **@asiaeuropemtg**

Follow us!

Twitter

13% Growth Rate in Followers
8.5K Engagements
4.3K Link clicks

Twitter Channels:

- » **@aseforg**
- » **@asefedu**
- » **@asiaEuropeMtg**
- » **@culture360_asef**
- » **@envforum**

LinkedIn

30.8% Growth Rate in Followers
3.3K Engagements
133K Users reached

LinkedIn Channels:

- » **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**
- » **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)**
- » **ASEFEdu**



ASIA-EUROPE
FOUNDATION

www.ASEF.org