

# Fostering Transversal Skills ASEM Education Action Plan 2030 Virtual Workshop

Azirah Hashim Asia-Europe Institute Universiti Malaya 2 February 2021

### Transversal skills

- Skills that are "not specifically related to a particular job, task, academic discipline or area of knowledge but [...] can be used in a wide variety of situations and work settings".
- Following UNESCO's classification of transversal skills in six categories, the ASEM Education partners and stakeholders aim to foster **opportunities** for learners to develop critical and innovative thinking skills, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, media and information literacy, as well as skills, attitudes and values related to **global citizenship**, including tolerance, openness, respect and understanding for diversity, different cultures and sustainable development. It is generally accepted and demonstrated that (virtual) **mobility and exchanges** have a positive influence on the acquisition of such transversal skills. It will hence help learners to become active, **multilingual**, responsible and engaged citizens, while promoting global citizenship.



### Asia-Europe Institute (AEI)

- One of Southeast Asia's leading institutions for social science postgraduate research and teaching.
- Established under the provisions of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) initiative in 1996.
- Strives to be a renowned institution of higher learning with academic programmes and research on inter-regional relations between Asia-Europe.
- Promotes collaborative research with academics as well as government and private sector institutions.



### **AEI-ASEM Summer School**

- An on-going initiative to enhance balanced mobility of students, researchers and academics between Asia and Europe (ASEMME4).
- Objective to bring more European students to Asia to promote Balanced Mobility



- Attract learners from Europe and other countries discuss and interact on topics such as cultural and religious pluralism in both Asia and Europe.
- Promote AEI as a body that brings Europe to Asia; create future opportunities for European higher education institutions to explore and initiate outbound mobility programmes and exchanges with AEI.
- European learners experience first-hand cultural and religious pluralism and participate in activities.







### PARTICIPANTS' TESTIMONIES (2015)...



"... being a group of 9 people brought enrichment instead of impoverishment, because we really stuck together and created life-long relationships, teaching each other about our cultural backgrounds and sharing our interests and dreams. I really treasured the conversation and discussions held to improve a project that was perfect with its imperfections."

" As a biologist, I would say that I expected more on the biodiversity modules because I know there are still more that Malaysia can offer. Culturally, I was very refreshed after each experience. As a Filipino Catholic, it was enlightening to be exposed to a lot of Muslim culture, since I am seldom exposed to it back home.

I gained a new appreciation towards Muslim culture. And the best part was gaining new friends from the camp and eating a lot of delicious spicy Malaysian food. I will definitely recommend this to all my colleagues next year."

-Manuel Eduardo De La Paz, PHILIPPINES



"We definitely didn't just learn about biodiversity and cultural heritage, but we also learned about how to be a good leader by exercising soft skill s. We also visited some amazing places in Malaysia like Putrajaya, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Melaka, and so on. It WAS A great opportunity to learn about the richness and diversity of Asian culture."

- Vira Maulina, INDONESIA



### PARTICIPANTS' TESTIMONIES (2016)...



"I am impressed with the Malay culture and history because it is so unique and different from my Japanese culture. I never have a chance to be friend with Muslim people before, but after knowing them, I believe we should respect culture and vice versa. This is one of the precious experience for me because I get to know about other culture. I am able to exchange knowledge and experiences through this AEI-ASEM Summer School programme."

- Nakanishi Moe, Japan -



"The AEI-ASEM Summer School was a great opportunity to learn in-depth about the different facets of Malaysia. It was a great mix of seminars, cultural activities and sightseeing. Lecturers from both Malaysia and abroad taught on various subjects ranging from history, culture, business and current affairs. They shared their knowledge and experiences with us."

- Timotheus J. Krahl, Germany -



### PARTICIPANTS' TESTIMONIES (2017)...



"What an incredible two weeks! I have made some incredible friends and met some frankly fascinating people. Malaysia is a beautiful country that I luckily have not left quite yet. It has such a rich past and present that I am so fortunate to have had the chance to learn about and experience. So many insightful lectures, field trips, and of course the two day Asia Europe conference, have given me much food for thought (and perhaps some inspiration for my thesis!!!)"

- Antonia Gough, British-



"AEI-ASEM Summer School gives me opportunity not only to learn serious stuff such as regionalism and multiculturalism, but also gives me the opportunity to understand the people. The friendship that is created by this event would last a lifetime!"

-Ghifari Athallah Ramadhan, Indonesia-



"There are experiences which happen once in a lifetime but they are so unique that they leave a lasting mark on you. The Summer school both in Kuala Lumpur and Brussels was one of them for me because of the incredible opportunity to meet passionate young people full of ideas from all over the world and to spend three unforgettable weeks with them exploring the peculiarities of the European and South-East Asian culture, historical heritage and, of course, delicious cuisine. Those were three rewarding and personally enriching weeks for me during which not only did I learn a lot thanks to the diverse academic lectures but also through peer-to-peer sharing and experiencing for myself the differences and similarities between the Malaysian and Belgium multicultural societies".

- Yordanka Vasileva Dimcheva, Bulgaria-

### Topics

Malaysia: The Past, Present and Future

Malaysia: The Road to Nationhood

Peranakans in Malaysia and Singapore: Multiculturalism in Asia

Multiculturalism in Europe: Identity, Ethnic, and Diversity

Religious Pluralism in Asia: Southeast Asia and Beyond

Music and Movements: Dances Through Heritage

**Cultural Diversity in Asia and Europe** 

**Culture and Heritage Tourism** 

Crisis Migration in Asia and Europe: Challenges and Reactions

The World of Cinema: Through the Lenses of Asia and Europe

Roundtable: The Challenges of Pluralism and the Future of Cultural Diversity













Intercultural Experiences Exchange of Knowledge Field Trips to Exciting Places Experiential Learning Networking Opportunities







## EXCURSIONS TO TRADITIONAL

& HISTORICAL SITES AROUND MALAYSIA





















#### **Online Summer School 2020**

14, 15, 17 & 18 September 2020 @ 4pm-6pm (Malaysia Time) / 9am-11am (Irish Standard Time)

Theme: Multiculturalism in Asia and Europe: Issues and Challenges

Register now at https://bit.ly/asemss2020

#### Speakers:



**Nadia Reynders** ASEM Education Secretariat,

**Professor Dr Lorna Carson** 

Trinity College Dublin



**Anne Barrington** Former Special Envoy of the Government of Ireland



Professor Dr Azirah Hashim



Universiti Malaya



Dr. Rahul Mishra Universiti Malava



**Emeritus Professor Dr Ranjit Singh** 



**Professor Balazs Apor** Trinity College Dublin

Universiti Utara Malavsia



Dr. Nurliana Kamaruddin Universiti Malaya

MORE INFO: https://aei.um.edu.my/ss2020

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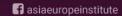
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Professor Jude Lal Fernando Trinity College Dublin

### **Topics**

Introduction to ASEM

**Speaker:** Nadia Reynders, ASEM Education Secretariat, Brussels

Speakers from both Malaysia and Ireland:

- Module 1: ASEAN and the EU: Past, Present and Future
- Module 2: Multilingualism in Asia and Europe
- Module 3: Crisis Migration in Asia and Europe
- Module 4: Religious Pluralism in Asia and Europe



### Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2017-2021)

- EU/European Ambassadors lectures for Malaysians/SE Asians
- Europe Day in schools in Malaysia
- Asia-Europe conference on Asia-Europe political, economic and sociocultural issues
- EU-ASEAN comparative regionalism workshops
- Teaching EU Studies in ASEAN workshops
- Virtual classes on ASEM by Professor from Germany for AEI and Bochum University students



### Transversal skills

- Exchange of ideas; sharpen critical thinking; teamwork.
- Develop intercultural understanding and empathy.
- Gain practical insights into the difficulties and opportunities an intercultural setting has.
- Appreciate and respect the cultural differences of individuals and groups.
- Develop knowledge and critical thinking skills.
- Understand contemporary issues in both regions.



### Future AEI-ASEM summer schools

- Collaboration with European universities; ASEAN universities.
- Hybrid online lectures and face-to-face SS in Malaysia.
- Diverse topics that raise cultural awareness and intercultural understanding.
- Scholarships promote importance of Transversal Skills (TS).
- Collaborations with industry encourage recognition of TS.
- Collaborations with youth groups/associations.
- Recognition and validation of TS.



### Thank you!

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