# **Collection of Remarks regarding ASEM-DUO**

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·   Human Resource Development in Information and Communications Technology	•[	Human Resource Development in Information and Communications Technology
· □ Lifelong Learning	•[	☐ Lifelong Learning
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## 2. ASEM 4 (Copenhagen, Monday 23 September 2002)

## • Chairman's Opening Speech

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In the light of the tragic events of 11 September, the bridge-building role of ASEM is even more called for. We must firmly reject any attempt by extremist forces to divide the International Community on the basis of race, ethnic background or religious persuasion. The retreat session at the Summit will provide an opportunity to deal with this extremely important issue informally. I hope this will be an ongoing effort for ASEM at all levels.

During the Summit we will address, for the first time, the new common challenges Asia and Europe are facing at the beginning of the 21st century. A constructive and forward-looking dialogue on the international security situation can pave the way for effective ASEM cooperation in the common fight against international terrorism and transnational organized crime.

The global economic situation, and regional economic and financial priorities in that context, are also issues of crucial importance to our discussions. This is true not only because one of the challenges posed by enhanced globalisation is the need for better coordination to fight abuses of the global financial system. We must also strive to achieve an even better framework for cooperation to improve market access and investment conditions. This is necessary for the attainment of a closer economic partnership between our two regions.

I firmly believe that economic growth can result in overall progress in the social sphere and thus help us to achieve social cohesion. This in turn might help counter some of the root causes of intolerance and extremism.

Not only are the regions of Asia and Europe themselves interdependent. The issues we are dealing with are intertwined as well. This is an essential factor to bear in mind throughout our discussions, irrespective of the specific subject at hand: be it cooperation in the struggle against terrorism; improving the conditions for trade and investments; or discussing how human resources development, educational exchange and lifelong learning can be utilized to reap the benefits of globalisation while also addressing its adverse consequences.

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your might ask: What does ASEM mean for people in everyday life? I would like to mention just a few examples of ASEM-initiatives.

One of the best examples is the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, which aims at exchanging up to 5,000 students, scholars and professors between Asia and Europe. Exchanging of students is a brilliant way to ensure greater understanding between our regions across cultural, social, historic and religious differences.

The ASEM-countries not only exchange students and professors, they also have a cultural cooperation. Since 1997 more than 6,000 persons have been directly involved in such activities - many more have benefited indirectly.

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#### • Chairman's Statement

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Human resources development, social cohesion and environmental cooperation
Leaders addressed adverse consequences of globalisation. They stressed the
Importance of human resources development and education as factors for
employability and alleviation of poverty and encouraged increased
educational exchange to foster mutual understanding between the two regions.

They welcomed the broadening of the ASEMDUO Fellowship Programme
and encouraged expansion of educational exchange among ASEM partners
by building on this and other such initiatives. Leaders endorsed an ASEM Seminar
on Educational Exchange aimed at collecting and disseminating information on
ASEM-wide exchange schemes.

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## 3. ASEM 5 (Hanoi, Saturday 9 October 2004)

#### • Chairman's Statement

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#### ANNEX 3

#### LIST OF NEW INITIATIVES

A- New initiatives adopted by Leaders:

- 1. ASEM Cooperation in the Applications of ICT in Human Resource Development and Capacity Building (Vietnam, Sweden, Korea, Brunei, Japan and Ireland);
- 2. ASEM Workshop on EU/ASIA S&T Cooperation on Clean Technology (EC and Vietnam);
- 3. ASEM Cooperation on HIV/AIDS Control (Sweden, Vietnam, the Netherlands and the Philippines);
- 4. ASEM Trade and Investment Exposition (China, Austria, Germany and Thailand)
- 5. Concept Paper on Asia Europe Young Political Leaders Summit (China and Denmark)
- 6. Initiative for Strengthening Cyber Security within the ASEM Region (Korea, Singapore, Portugal, Germany, Poland, the Philippines and China),
- 7. ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme Phase II (Korea, Singapore, France, Denmark);
- 8. ASEM Initiative: Inter-faith Dialogue (Indonesia, UK and EC);
- 9. ASEM Education and Research Hub for Life Long Learning (Denmark, Sweden and Thailand).
- B- New initiatives taken note by Leaders:
- 1. The ASEM Oceans Initiative (the Philippines and Portugal);
- 2. ASEM Seminar on Health Quarantine Cooperation to Prevent and Control Communicable Diseases (Vietnam).

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## 4. ASEM 6 (Helsinki, Monday 11 September 2006)

• Chairman's Statement

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- 24. Leaders emphasised that qualified human resources constitute a key factor for economic and social development. They recognised that globalisation poses challenges to human resources development affecting the entire field of education and training, and that both Asia and Europe are facing common issues such as managing financing and ensuring quality education and training for all. Leaders also underlined the importance of basic education, vocational training, and lifelong learning as investment in human resources. With this in mind, Leaders stressed the value of continued dialogue and exchange of best practices on questions related to education and training, and welcomed the offer by Germany to host the first ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education in 2008. They also recognised the role of the ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme in promoting exchanges in the field of education.
- 2. List of ASEM Initiatives
- III. Social/Cultural Pillar

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16. ASEM DUO Fellowship Program

France, Korea, Singapore

Secretariat set up in Seoul, Korea in 2001 to facilitate implementation.

- Has provided financial support to enhance reciprocal academic exchanges of students, teachers and professors of ASEM member countries.
- Denmark joined the program at ASEM IV.
- Thailand will join the program at ASEM VI.
- Adopted at ASEM III for the period of 2001~2005.
- Adopted at ASEM V for another extended period of 2006~2010.

## 5. ASEM 8 (Brussels, Tuesday 5 October 2010)

Chairman's Statement

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## **CLOSING**

85. Leaders approved the List of new initiatives figuring in Annex I and the ASEM Work Program for 2010 – 2012 figuring in Annex II.

86. Leaders thanked the Host Country for the successful arrangements for their Eighth Meeting and accepted with gratitude the offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the Ninth Asia-Europe Meeting and Looked forward to meeting again in Vientiane in October 2012.

Annex I: list of new initiatives

#### **Annex I:**

#### LIST OF NEW INITIATIVES

#### Austria

United Nations/ASEM UN-Spider Expert Meeting: The Contribution of Space-based Solutions to Sustainable Communities

## **Belgium**

9<sup>th</sup> ASEM Conference of Directors General of Immigration

#### PR China

2<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Ministers' Meeting & Transport Development Forum ASEM Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to Address Climate Change

Establishment of an ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center

ASEM Symposium on Technical and Vocational Education

#### Czech Republic

11th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

#### **Indonesia**

5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting

#### Republic of Korea

12<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Trans Eurasian Information Network Cooperation Center TEIN *Extension of the ASEM DUO Fellowship Program (Third Phase)* ASEM SMEs Eco Innovation Center (ASEIC)

#### Malaysia

Asia-Europe Seminar on Conservation of Timber and Lime Buildings

#### **Philippines**

ASEM Seminar on Harmonization of Biofuels Standards and Application to Vehicle Technologies

#### **Thailand**

**ASEM Food Security Conference** 

#### Vietnam

# ASEM Forum on Social Safety Nets for All ASEM Green Growth Forum

## 6. ASEM 10 (Milan, Thursday 16 October 2014)

#### • Chairman's Statement

31. Leaders recalled that education is a key enabling in promoting sustainable and inclusive development, innovation and poverty reduction. Adequate recourse are required to support education opportunities in ASEM countries. Supportive of the Education Frist initiative of the UN secretary General and of an integrated post-2015 Education for All agenda, leaders highlighted the significant contribution of education to the society at large and to people-to-people contacts between Asia and Europe in particular. In this context, leaders welcomed the efforts by the ASEM DUO programme. They acknowledged the role of education, in particular higher education, lifelong learning and vocational education and training, for human resource development.

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## 7. ASEM 11 (Ulaanbaatar, Saturday 16 July 2016)

#### • Chairman's Statement

21. Leaders underlined the importance of enhancing people-to-people connectivity through cultural, educational, academic, tourism and youth exchanges between the two regions. They also recognized that the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, which aims to promote education cooperation among ASEM partners, is producing practical and tangible results. They acknowledged the important role of education, in particular higher education, lifelong learning and vocational education and training for human resource development. Leaders commended the role of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in bringing together the peoples of Asia and Europe, forging closer links between the ASEM governments and civil societies and providing capacity-building trainings for the youth from both regions.

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# **II. ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting**

## 1. AESMME 1 (Berlin, 5/6 May 2008)

• Conclusions by the Chair

#### **Education and Training for Tomorrow: Common Perspectives in Asia and Europe**

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The Meeting <u>agreed</u>: To set up a strategic Asia-Europe education partnership for the 21st century, to strengthen the ASEM dialogue and cooperation in the field of education to include stakeholders at all levels and to convene a second Ministerial Meeting on Education in Vietnam in 2009.

- 1.To send key messages from the Berlin Conference to the ASEM summit in Beijing for acknowledgment and to pass on the chair's conclusions to the Asia-Europe Higher Education Leadership Dialogue Meeting in Berlin in October 2008 for further discussion.
- 2.To invite ASEM members to join an EU-Asia working group including Senior Officials and stakeholders from the education sector to identify the challenges connected with strengthening the mobility of students, teachers and researchers, and to make suggestions for improving the framework conditions for bi-regional exchanges with special regard to recognition of qualifications and degrees.
- 3.To propose the establishment of a bi-regional forum involving stakeholders from the education and economic sector to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between education and industry at local, national and international level. A regular exchange of experience on how to promote knowledge, skills, and competences relevant to the labor market could thus be established.
- 4.To continue to internationalise their education systems and to encourage the internationalisation of institutions, especially in higher education. The Meeting acknowledged the role of internationalisation processes in the field of higher education in both regions and expressed its interest in exchanging views and experiences between Asia and Europe.
- 5.To encourage international educational mobility between both regions and to especially enhance more balanced exchanges of talented students, graduates and researchers by strengthening the potential of national, bilateral and multilateral mobility schemes (such as ASEM DUO and ERASMUS Mundus). Bi-regional

exchanges, including foreign language learning, intercultural training and practical work experience, should be considered. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts of the European Commission and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) to enhance biregional people-to-people exchanges. Exchanges with less economically developed countries are encouraged.

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## 2. AESMME 2 (Hanoi, 14/15 May, 2009)

## Conclusions by the Chair

#### **Sharing Experience and Best Practices on Higher Education**

The Second Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Higher Education of the ASEM countries was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14-15 May 2009.

The Meeting was chaired by the Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Training, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thien Nhan, co-chaired and co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education, the Danish Ministry of Education, the German Ministry of Education and Research, the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Thai Ministry of Education.

The discussion focused on the comments and proposals of the First Meeting and on strengthening cooperation in higher education by forging strategic partnerships for quality assurance, credit recognition and transfer in ASEM countries. Exchanges of views also concentrated on sustainable human resource development for ASEM's future need through the promotion of lifelong learning and vocational education and training (VET), on enhancing mobility and employability, on strengthening university-industry partnerships, and on fostering quality vocational education in member countries.

The Meeting congratulated Vietnam on hosting the second meeting of ASEM Education Ministers Responsible for Higher Education and on effective coordination of a range of activities to increase visibility of higher education, removing obstacles to educational mobility, making quality assurance and accreditation more transparent, and lifelong learning more effective in member countries.

#### The Meeting:

- 1. Acknowledged the efforts of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) through the ASEM Education Hub (AEH) in facilitating dialogue and co-operation between and among various actors in the field of higher education: ASEM governments, university leaders, researchers, teachers and students.
- 2. Recognized the efforts and positive results of the Erasmus Mundus and the ASEM-DUO fellowship programmes in facilitating the mobility of students and teachers between Asia and Europe.

3. Recognized the ASEM Rectors' Conference process (with the AEH as its permanent Secretariat) as a dialogue partner, representing higher education stakeholders from the ASEM countries, at the ASEM Ministerial Meeting.

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## 3. AESMME 3 (Copenhagen. 9/10 May 2011)

#### • Conclusions by the Chair

#### **Shaping an ASEM Education Are**

The Third Meeting of the Ministers for Education of the ASEM countries was hosted by Denmark in Copenhagen on 9 and 10 May 2011. The meeting was attended by 160 participants from 40 ASEM member countries and chaired by the Danish Minister for Education.

The Meeting warmly welcomed representatives from the new ASEM members Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation, who joined the ASEM Process during the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit held in Brussels, October 2010.

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#### C. Balanced Mobility

#### The Ministers:

- 10. Shared the view that learning mobility between Asia and Europe should be more balanced and urged the ASEM Education Secretariat to organize workshops in order to develop, together with experts from ASEM members, a strategy for balanced mobility and prepare a first draft with recommendations for the next ministerial meeting;
- 11. Underscored the need for more and better data on student and staff mobility between Asia and Europe to provide a solid basis for political conclusions and decisions:
- 12. Resolved to improve the level of information on educational opportunities in Asia and Europe among people and invite ASEM members to support ASEF in its effort to update and maintain the DEEP database;
- 13. Encouraged the ASEM members to increase the number of joint study programmes (e.g. in Asian and European studies) and summer schools between Asian and European higher education institutions by using various programmes and funding schemes; an ASEM pilot scheme for joint curriculum development, funded by interested ASEM countries, could be envisaged;

14. Agreed to promote student, teacher, researcher and administrative staff exchanges by using existing mobility schemes; the Ministers acknowledged the efforts made by ASEM DUO to strengthen the bilateral student and teacher exchange between Asian and European institutions and took note of the extension of the ASEM DUO programme to its third phase; the ASEM DUO secretariat is to be evaluated and looks forward to presenting the results at ASEMME4;

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## 4. AESMME 4 (Kuala Lumpur. 13/14 May 2015)

## • Conclusions by the Chair

## **Shaping an ASEM Education Are**

The Fourth Meeting of the Ministers for Education of the ASEM countries was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 13 and 14 May 2013 and attended by 152 participants from 34 ASEM members and 7 international organizations. The Meeting was chaired by H.E the Secretary general, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia.

The Meeting warmly welcomed the new ASEM members Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland who joined the ASEM process during the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit held in Vientiane, Laos in November 2012.

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#### C. Balanced Mobility

#### The Ministers:

Interregional exchange of students and staff leads to an increase in internationally trained and experienced labour force and lays the ground for new partnerships in Asia and Europe. However, Student mobility between both regions is notably imbalanced. Many more Asian students study in Europe than Europeans in Asia. It was felt in previous Ministerial meetings that measures should be taken to better balance mobility flows, especially by motivating more European students to spend at least part of their studies in Asia. To this end, mobility-friendly frameworks concerning information, funding and study conditions must be further developed.

The Ministers thanked Thailand for organizing the 'International Asia-Europe Conference on Enhancing Balanced Mobility', which took place in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2012, as well as the countries supporting the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, that specifically addresses the imbalance in exchange and encourages balanced mobility by supporting pair-based and two-way exchanges.

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- 29. Invited the European Commission to organize a seminar for ASEM members on the international dimension of the new EU education programme (2014-2020) with focus on funding opportunities for Asia-Europe mobility and cooperation.
- 30. Noted with satisfaction the positive evaluation report of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme. They expressed their appreciation for the programme's contribution to balanced mobility between the two regions and encouraged more ASEM member countries to join the programme. Belgium (French Community) Expressed its willingness to join the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

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## 5. AESMME 5 (Riga. 27/28 April 2015)

• Conclusions by the Chair

#### **Shaping an ASEM Education Are**

The 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME5) took place in Riga, Latvia on 27 and 28 April 2015 and brought together 196 participants from 46 ASEM members and 11 stakeholders. The Meeting was chaired by Ms Mārīte Seile, Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia.

The Meeting warmly welcomed representatives from the new ASEM members, Croatia and Kazakhstan who joined the ASEM Process during the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) held in Milan, Italy on 16-17 October 2014.

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31. Welcomed the Republic of Korea's effort to open up new and wider opportunities for countries to share example cases, experiences and know-how on industry-university cooperative research programs by holding the Global Industry-University Cooperation Forum in October 2015 and in 2016, building upon the outcomes of ASEM University-Business Fora. The Republic of Korea expected that it will set another steppingstone to advance discussions on developing effective and productive modes of industry-university partnership, and asked for active participation of ASEM countries in the Forum.

#### C. Balanced Mobility

Interregional exchange of students and staff results in increase in internationally trained and experienced labour force and lays foundations for new partnerships in Asia and Europe. The imbalanced flows of mobile students and teachers between Asia and Europe is a major issue for the ASEM education cooperation. Measures should still be taken to better balance mobility flows. There are also several obstacles encountered by the students both from Asia and Europe preventing mobility.

The Ministers:

36. Acknowledged the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme has served as a practical and tangible cooperation project, which contributed to the enhancement of mutual understanding of both Asia and Europe by promoting education cooperation and balanced exchanges of university students. Welcomed the ASEM member countries (Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Sweden, Belgium/Flemish Community and Belgium/French Community) for joining the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme and encouraged more ASEM member countries to join the programme in the 4th phase until 2020.

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## III. Others

## 1. Preparation for ASEM 6

# 1) ASEM in its Tenth Year: Looking Back, Looking Forward-Asian Country Report, March 2006

Co-directed by Tadashi Yamamoto, President, Japan Center for International Exchange

Yeo Lay Hwee, Executive Director & Senior Fellow, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

.....In this context, Korea has contributed to advancing shared interests between Asia and Europe. Korea has assumed a mediating role in the forum by inviting both industrialized western European countries and developing Southeast Asian countries to the table. As it has increased its status in the global arena, Korea has actively participated in collective efforts to offer visions about the future of ASEM and to substantiate interregional cooperation. Korea proposed the ASEM Vision Group at the 1998 London meeting. The Vision Group submitted the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework in 2000. At the third Summit, Korea launched new initiatives including the Iron Silk Road and the DUO ASEM Fellowship Program. For the first time, the Seoul meeting invited members of civil society to sideline events at the high-profile political dialogue. p.62

.....In contrast to the two other pillars, one notes that it is in ASEM's socio-cultural and intellectual pillar were a lot of progress can be seen. These are reflected in a number of activities which had produced tangible projects. Among these, include the following:

- Establishment of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in 1997.
- Establishment of an Asia-Europe Centre at the University of Malaya (1998)
- Institution of regular ASEM conference on Cultures and Civilisation
- Initiative on Asia-Europe Cooperation in Promoting Awareness in the Young Generation of the Drug Problem
- Establishment of the ASEM DUO (Educational) Fellowship Programme p.131

## 2) ASEM in its Tenth Year: Looking Back, Looking Forward

An evaluation of ASEM in its first decade and an exploration of its future possibilities European Background Study, March 2006

University of Helsinki Network for European Studies

.....The Meeting further endorsed and adopted the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF 2000), a document setting out the vision for the ASEM process in the 21st century which remains the key framework for ASEM to date. Other major decisions were the extension of the ASEM Trust Fund and the ASEM DUO scholarship programme. p.32

.....People-to-People Exchange has been one of the most developed and wide reaching sectors of ASEF. The participants are young professionals, parliamentarians and students, who are encouraged to interact and create networks for future cooperation. The projects cover educational links, cross-cultural learning, business, youth, environment and politics. Educational exchanges and cooperation programmes have been central in ASEF throughout its activity. Cooperation programmes include ASEM Education Hubs, ASEM Duo and the Asia-Europe Institute, established by the University of Malaysia in 1997. With the ASEF University Programme the foundation has brought together students from both regions to engage in intercultural exchange. Asia-Europe Youth Cooperation engages young people in interregional dialogue within various projects, such as the ASEM Youth Dialogue that aims to channel the ideas and priorities of youth leaders and activists from government and civil society to the ASEM leaders. p115-116

.....Sometimes strong national motivations have led to the establishment of overlapping projects as in the case of educational exchanges, where different projects have been launched to promote the same objective. For example the Asia-Europe University in Malaysia, Singaporean proposal on ASEM Education Hub and *French-Korean initiative on the French Duo programme* all support exchange of students and researches. p175

.....The number of concrete activities carried out in the socio-cultural and intellectual areas, including the establishment of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), *educational exchanges through the ASEM DUO programs* and the creation of a network of educational hubs reflects the relative success of ASEM's "third pillar" (Chapter Four). p.195

## 3) PUBLICATIONS OF THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ASEM IN ITS TENTH YEARLOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD-An evaluation of ASEM in its first decade and an exploration of its future possibilities, March 2006

Prepared by Japan Center for International Exchange and University of Helsinki Network for European Studies

#### ....Socio-cultural Pillar

There is a general perception that progress has been most significant in the areas of socio-cultural and intellectual exchange. This is reflected in a number of activities which produced results, including the establishment of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), *educational exchanges through the ASEM DUO programs* and the creation of a network of educational hubs. p.13

**4) Appendix,** Summary report of the workshop on "10 Years of ASEM", Held on October 21, 2005

at The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kingdom of Thailand, Organized by the Centre for European Studies, with the support of the Japan Center for International Exchange and the Asia-Europe Foundation

#### •The Commission on Higher Education

•The representative from the Commission on Higher Education emphasized that in the ASEM frameworks there are two programs concerning educational affairs: the Education and Research Network Education Hub and the ASEM Duo Fellowship Program. The Education and Research Network Education Hub is designed to promote exchange of the university professors and students among ASEM member countries. The ASEM Duo Fellowship Program was designed to create bilateral exchange between universities of ASEM member countries. Those exchanges will help upgrade educational standards in Thailand. p.155

## 5) 10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges – Joint Responses

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Developing Asia-Europe education co-operation: Several initiatives have been developed, notably (1) the ASEM Education Hubs, a platform for cooperation that aims to forge stronger links and to promote knowledge transfer among universities and institutions of higher learning, as well as exchanges of students and faculties in Asia and Europe; and (2) the ASEM DUO programme, which is a fellowship-granting programme initiated by Korea, Singapore, and France, recently joined by Thailand, for university students and teachers from Europe to study and work in Asia and vice versa.

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