

ANNUAL REPORT









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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 between 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, ASEF was established by ASEM partners as its only permanent institution. The Foundation 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 the ASEM Summits. 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 of ASEM countries.

Our Mandate

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

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



Complements the ASEM Process through people-topeople connectivity



Reports to a board of governors



Publicly funded by voluntary contributions from 53 ASEM partners



Based in singapore

7 THEMATIC AREAS

Culture

Economy

Education

Governance

Diversity

Respect

Sustainability

CORE VALUES

Learning

Professionalism

Accountability

Media

Public Health

Sustainable Development



reetings to all, with the hope that the year just starting will be less difficult than the one just ended and wishing every one of you, your loved ones, and your respective countries a happy and safe 2021.

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year for each one of us and so was it for the ASEF Board of Governors. At a time when an unexpected pandemic hit the globe and shifted our realities, ASEF was already facing its financial difficulties, revealed in the previous year. These challenges obliged us, the Board of Governors to have a closer look at the functions of the Foundation. It was a difficult task as it was unclear then how and to what extent COVID-19 would impact the work of ASEF. How to ensure a smooth transition between the out-going and in-coming Executive Management teams in such uncertainties was also a major challenge for us. Nonetheless, the fact that the Executive Committee Meeting was organised six times in 2020 demonstrates the exceptional degree of commitment by the ExCo to help navigate ASEF through this difficult period. We commend the 2020 Chair of the ASEF Board of Governors, Ambassador Kojiro SHIOJIRI, for his extraordinary leadership in this unprecedented uncertainty.

The new Executive Management was elected by the Board in June and started to function in August. The ASEF Team played an important role to help ease the new Executive Management into its new role. As a consequence, ASEF was able to continue its thematic projects under the areas of Culture, Education, Governance and Economy, Media, as well as Sustainable Development and Public Health, by transforming them into online or hybrid versions, while making tremendous efforts to ensure financial prudence and efficiency.

The depth of this Annual Report reflects ASEF's resilience and validates its importance as an organization which has been instrumental in forging permanent linkages across Asia and Europe for the past 23 years. Most recently, ASEF's virtual platforms are a new channel to help bring the citizens of the two continents even closer.

We would like to thank the ASEF Team for their dedication and achievements throughout this challenging year.

In the year 2021, despite the good news on the development of the vaccines, we still foresee the continuation of the impact from the pandemic. This makes the role of ASEF in helping to connect the various sectors and peoples in the two continents even more important.

It is, therefore, imperative that ASEF must redouble its efforts to further strengthen its engagement with the public and private sectors, and in particular with the civil society, in both continents and to achieve tangible results in the ASEM process, as well as in other international fora, in order to ensure that the peoples of Asia and Europe will be well positioned to rise to newer heights together in the Post-COVID-19 era.

ASEF must 'reset' itself to function in the 'new normal' focusing on solidarity, cooperation, and integrated inclusiveness. We look forward to working closely with ASEF Team led by the new Executive Management to make the new year, 2021, the bridge to a better future for the peoples in our two regions and beyond.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Hervé LADSOUS Chair, ASEF Board of Governors

Dr Darmp SUKONTASAPVice-Chair, ASEF Board of Governors



ike many of us, we began the year 2020 with anticipation to move forward with our plans. Unfortunately, an unexpected health pandemic hit the globe and through unprecedented changes we had to step back, adjust our methods, and persevere through the uncertainty. While this experience brought many challenges, it has been a catalyst to ASEF's future work including through digitalisation of the projects and the networks. We commend the ASEF Team led by then Acting Executive Director SUN Xiangyang for their endurance, courage, and creativity to ensure ASEF that was already suffering the chronic financial difficulty, survive the first impact of the crisis, especially when not knowing the measure of COVID-19's, depth, scope and duration, when it first emerged.

In August this year, we assumed respectively the function of Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director. Our mission is to further adjust ASEF's Projects to the rapidly changing situation of the pandemic and to the "new normal", as well as to make ASEF even more relevant to playing its part in shaping the "Post COVID-19 era", in the ASEM Process and in other international fora. As a first step, we had an in-depth learning from the ASEF Team on how the Foundation functions and took steps for more organisational articulation. We strengthened the communication with the Governors

through the Executive Committee and the Finance & Audit Committee to increase the transparency of the work of ASEF.

We continued to adjust our work by accelerating further our digitalisation plans. Our programme departments diligently re-designed and delivered projects in the second half of 2020. These projects were successfully implemented in a well digitalised format and the staff learned a lot of practical know-hows to better organise online events.

All these were possible only with the cooperation by all the working partners of ASEF to whom, on behalf of ASEF, we hereby express our deep appreciation.

We are grateful to all our ASEF Members and other donors for their contributions in 2020 and for the pledged funds allocated for 2021. The trust and expectation to us expressed through these contributions in these unprecedented difficulties, lead us to realise our huge responsibility.

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact economic situations of our Members despite some hope for the future brought by the news on the vaccines.

ASEF has a lot to do in playing its part for shaping the Post-COVID-19 era. Witnessing the apparition of new strains of the virus, we may have to accept to live with COVID-19, even if we still face plenty of uncertainties. What would be the global health governance? How can we re-organise to cope with climate change and other challenges, what will be the challenge for human rights in the new era, how can we continue to connect the people in Asia and Europe? ASEF has a role to play in finding answers to these collective questions.

ASEF will mark its 25th Anniversary in February 2022. The year 2021 will be an important year for ASEF. While going through the financial difficulties foreseen this year, we need to envisage our future plan for ASEF to be more relevant to play its part in shaping the Post-COVID-19 era. We started internal discussions and look forward to communicating with the Governors of ASEF Members, ASEM Senior Officials and our partners in civil societies.

2020 has brought us closer to thinking about our future, as we reflected on the lessons we have learned together. In anchoring our achievements, the ASEF Team stands united to strengthen its presence, visibility and to make a difference through Asia-Europe exchanges.

Ambassador MORIKAWA Toru

Executive Director

Ambassador Leon FABER
Deputy Executive Director

ASEF Board of Governors 2020

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

ASEAN Secretariat	Mr Robert Matheus Michael TENE
Australia	Ms Rachel DUNSTONE
	Ms Kate DUFF (until August 2020)
Austria	Ms Gabriele MEON-TSCHÜRTZ
Bangladesh	Mr Zokey AHAD
	Ms Nahida Rahman SHUMONA
	until September 2020)
Belgium	Ambassador Andy DETAILLE
Brunei Darussalam	Ms Megawati MANAN
	Mr Pengiran Indera Jaya bin Pengiran
	SHAMSU (until October 2020)
Bulgaria	Dr Ludmila DIMITROVA
Cambodia	Mr HENG Sokphal
China	Ambassador ZHANG Xiaokang
Croatia	Ambassador Dražen MARGETA
Cyprus	High Commissioner Agis LOIZOU
Czech Republic	Ambassador Milan HUPCEJ
Denmark	Ambassador Sandra Jensen LANDI
	Ambassador Dorte Bech VIZARD
	(until August 2020)
Estonia	Mr Mart LAIDMETS
European Union	Mr George CUNNINGHAM
	Dr Steven EVERTS (until June 2020)
Finland	Ambassador Antti VÄNSKÄ
France	Ambassador Hervé LADSOUS
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 Kojiro SHIOJIRI
Kazakhstan	Ambassador Arken ARYSTANOV
Korea	Ambassador CHOI Sung-joo

Lao PDR	Mr Kingphokeo PHOMMAHAXAY Mr Songkane LUANGMUNINTHONE (until April 2020)
Latvia	Ms Inna ŠTEINBUKA
Lithuania	Ambassador Gediminas VARVUOLIS
Luxembourg	Mr Robert GOEBBELS
Malaysia	Mr Ahmad Kamrizamil MOHD RIZA
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
Norway	Ambassador Anita NERGAARD
Pakistan	High Commissioner Rukhsana AFZAAL
Philippines	Ambassador Joseph D. YAP
Poland	Ambassador Magdalena BOGDZIEWICZ
Portugal	Ambassador Mário Miranda DUARTE Ambassador Luís João DE SOUSA LORVÃO (until March 2020)
Romania	Amb Florin Marius TACU Mr Gheorghe MAGHERU (until May 2020)
Russian Federation	Ambassador Andrey TATARINOV
Singapore	Prof Leo TAN Wee Hin
Slovakia	Ambassador Michal KOTTMAN
Slovenia	Ms Petra KEŽMAN
Spain	Mr Javier PARRONDO Ambassador Santiago MIRALLES (until January 2020)
Sweden	Ms Kamilla LINDSTRÖM
Switzerland	Ambassador Fabrice FILLIEZ
Thailand	Dr Darmp SUKONTASAP
United Kingdom	High Commissioner Kara Owen CVO
Viet Nam	Ambassador HUNG Doan Xuan Ambassador NGUYEN Tien Minh (until May 2020)



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

From left to right:

Amb MORIKAWA Toru (Japan), Executive Director
Ms Cynthia YEO (Singapore), Human Resources Executive
Ms Sanja DUNDOVIC (Slovenia), Executive Assistant
Ms HUANG Haiqi (China), Executive Assistant
Ms Meera BAL (Singapore), Chief of Staff
Ms Enkhjin BAYARKHUU (Mongolia), Funds Manager
Amb Léon FABER (Luxembourg), Deputy Executive Director



ASEF's work in Culture connects arts communities in Asia and Europe through online platforms, travel grants, virtual residencies and arts festivals.

ASEF promotes cultural relations by connecting artists, cultural professionals, arts organisations, public institutions, networks and museums in Asia and Europe. ASEF's work in culture responds to current gaps in cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe by providing access to information, facilitating cultural mobility and promoting artistic diversity.

In 2020, ASEF developed 2 virtual initiatives for emerging artists & curators in response to the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic. They focused on cultural exchange and capacity building initiatives, including peer-to-peer learning & a mentoring programme.

From left to right:

Andrea ABELLON (Singapore), Project Executive Preeti GAONKAR (India), Project Manager Valentina RICCARDI (Italy), Senior Project Manager Anupama SEKHAR (India), Director

Not in picture:

Fatima AVILA (Philippines) transferred to the Communications Department on 1 February 2020 Kerrine GOH (Singapore) until 12 May 2020

Mobility First! — ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative

PARTNERS





This project is partially funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

A travel grant for artists & cultural professionals.

In March 2020, due to COVID-19 and the ensuing restrictions on travel and physical gatherings, ASEF suspended the Mobility First! travel grant programme and focused on virtual exchanges.



- » 16 cultural professionals from 4 ASEM countries supported to travel to 8 ASEM countries to participate in relevant arts events (conferences, trainings, residencies, festivals, etc.) from January to February 2020
- » 2 Virtual ASEF Unplugged conversations with alumni on the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to create, and their recommendations on how to support artists in a time of crisis
- » Compilation of inspiring stories of alumni responding to the crisis
- » Compilation of travel stories of alumni and the impact of their travels on their professional development



Mobility First! supported Jayachandran 'Jay' Palazhy (India) to travel to Yohohama, Japan in February 2020 to participate in the Asia Network for Dance (AND+) meeting, TPAM - Performing Arts Meeting, and Yokohama Dance Collection and Hot Pot performances

Jay at the AND+ workshop at TPAM, Yokohama, Japan (Photo by Hideto Maezawa, credit to AND+)

Participants at the virtual ASEF Unplugged event in July 2020. Mobility First! and the Prince Claus Fund jointly organised 2 virtual events for alumni.



ASEF Culture360

PARTNERS















MEDIA PARTNERS



CROSS[X]





















A digital platform for arts, culture and heritage.

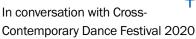
In 2020, we initiated 2 virtual residencies for curators and artists, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the limited opportunities for face-to-face encounters.



- » 1 new virtual residency Virtual360 Konnect, organised for emerging art leaders from the ASEAN region and Korea. The residency facilitated the virtual collaborations of 20 artists and cultural professionals with daily interactions on ASEF culture360 Instagram platform and 10 articles published
- » 1 new virtual residency and capacity building Virtual Workings, organised for arts curators from the ASEAN region and Japan. The residency facilitated the interaction of 3 groups of curators and one mentor for each group. Weekly updates from each group were published on ASEF culture360 Instagram platform and 3 online projects were created.
- » A special COVID-19 website section listing free online resources for audiences to engage with the arts
- » Over 30 weekly curated updates on arts news, events and funding opportunities
- » Over 20 commissioned articles a year on topics of common interest for Asia and Europe, partially selected through an open call process

- 15 media partnerships with relevant arts events in Slovakia, Romania, the Netherlands, India, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Italy
- » 3 podcasts produced hosting conversations with arts organisations in Italy, India and the Philippines

PODCAST 1:



PODCAST 2:

How are arts conversations collaborating internationally in the new normal?

PODCAST 3:

mance

In conversation with Performance Curators Initiatives (PCI)

A public arts festival celebrating traditional and contemporary arts from Asia & Europe.

The next edition of the Festival, co-organised by the European Union (EU), the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), will be held in conjunction with the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13) in 2021.

Learn More»

POSTPONED

ASEM Cultural Festival at the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13)



ABOVE: Participants of Virtual360 Konnect – Emerging Arts Leaders Virtual Residency Series at the closing call of the programme on 30 November 2020. Virtual360 Connect is organised with the support of KONNECT ASEAN, an ASEAN Foundation arts and cultural programme funded by the Republic of Korea.

BELOW: Participants of Virtual Workings — e-Residency for Arts Curators in discussion with their mentors. Virtual Workings is organised with the support of the Japan Foundation, Bangkok.









ASEF's work in Education facilitates collaboration between youth, students, teachers & educators, higher education & EdTech experts with Education policy makers across Asia and Europe.

ASEF's work in Education 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. They facilitate 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 Ministerial Meetings, ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings and ASEM Summits.

From left to right:

Angie TOH (Singapore), Senior Project Manager James CHAN (Singapore), Inclusion Adviser Jyoti RAHAMAN (Bangladesh), Project Officer Leonie NAGARAJAN (Germany), Director Freya CHOW-PAUL (United Kingdom), Project Officer Réka TÓZSA (Hungary), Project Manager

Not in picture:

Hege KALLBEKKEN (Norway) until 30 June 2020 Andy CHAN (Singapore) until 26 August 2020 Meera BAL (Singapore) transferred to the Executive Office on 31 October 2020

YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4): Navigators Open Call and Training Prior to the upcoming 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4), a capacity building training was held, inviting 16 young Asians and Europeans for a peer-to-peer learning experience. These participants, known as 'Navigators', will be the facilitators for the ASEFYLS4 programme.

- » 16 Navigators from 13 ASEM countries who facilitate 16 Community Action projects
- » 14 training sessions designed, facilitated, and implemented by ASEFEdu exploring the topics of Self-Leadership, Team Leadership, Societal Leadership, and the Sustainable Development Goals
- » 7 expert speakers & trainers shared their experiences on leadership & community projects
- » Read more

CO-ORGANISERS



ក្រសួចការមេធេស និខសចម្រតិចត្តិការអន្តរប៉ាតិ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation







PARTNER

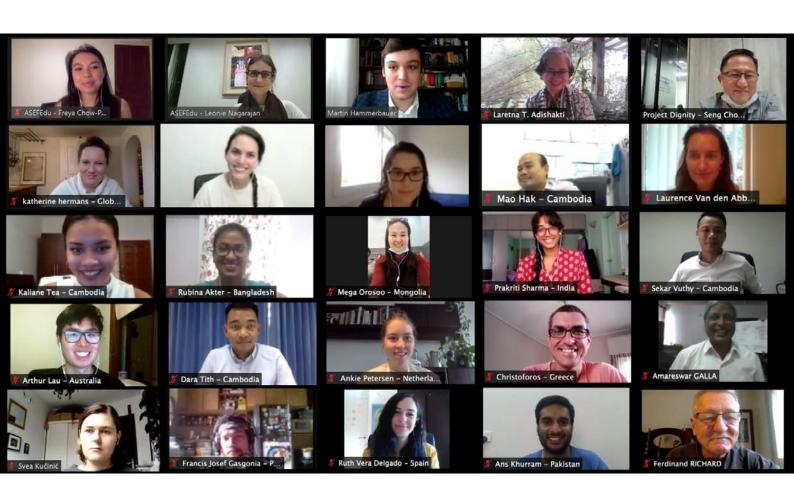


CONTRIBUTING TO





ASEF's contribution is funded by the European Union



EDUCATION POLICY PROGRAMME

ASEF Support to the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Forum 2020

PARTNERS





ASEF supported the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Forum 2020 - organised by the ASEM LLL Hub Secretariat, hosted at the University College Cork, Ireland on 13-15 October 2020. The Hub is the official ASEM network for university cooperation in Lifelong Learning Research between Asia and Europe.

- » Virtual Conference on the theme "Future Directions on Lifelong Learning: Creating a vision for Lifelong Learning Research, Policy & Practice in Asia & Europe"
- » 6 Research Networks presented their work and discussed the framework of Asia-Europe LLL policy contexts
- » A five-year ASEM LLL Hub Action Plan was adopted with priorities and a road map from 2020-2025

Read more

Watch recordings



Lifelong learning is about co-learning and it is about learning together. There is not really a student/ teacher focus, the student is a learner, but the student is also somebody who is teaching."

Prof Séamus Ó TUAMA, Chair of the ASEM LLL Hub

ASEF Support to the World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED) Global Conference Series 2020

The World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED) was celebrated on 17 November 2020 in the form of a global conference series. ASEF took the lead in organising the Asia edition titled "Access and Success for Marginalised Groups in Asian Higher Education".

- » Over 400 people registered for the Asia Conference, among them access and success advocators and practitioners in higher education (university managers, NGOs), students and student organisation leaders in Asia
- » ASEF ensured an inclusive virtual conference format through accessible documents and videos
- » Three parallel tracks were organised:
 - → Women Students and Students from Lower Socio-economic, Rural and Refugee Backgrounds in Higher Education in Asia
 - → Students with Special Needs in Higher Education in Asia
 - → Pathways and Opportunities for Non-traditional Students in COVID-19 and Beyond

Watch recordings

PARTNERS



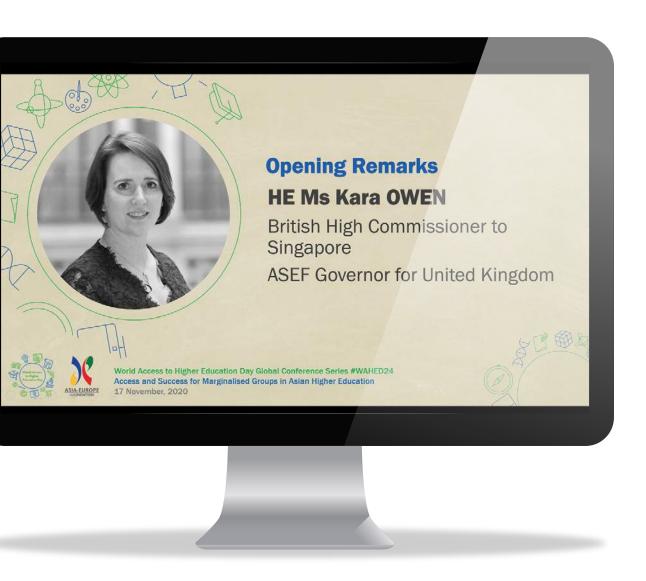




I am really impressed by ASEF and NEON for organising this event. Opening up education opportunities is a critically important subject to our world and it is one that I care passionately about on a personal level."

HE Ms Kara OWEN CMG,

British High Commissioner to Singapore, ASEF Governor for the United Kingdom.



8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC8)

PARTNER



In the first phase of this project, higher education experts and student leaders collaborated on writing the "ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe". The report serves as a basis of policy discussions with ASEM Education Senior Officials.

- » 28 higher education experts representing 37 organisations jointly worked on the ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe
- » The Outlook Report will focus on four main areas:
 - → Inclusive Learning and Teaching in a Digital World
 - → Inclusive and Flexible Lifelong Learning Pathways
 - → Inclusive International Mobility of People and Knowledge
 - → Equitable Access and Success in Higher Education
- » The Outlook Report will make recommendations for policy makers and university leaders
- » ARC8 is the Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers' Meetings (ASEMME), ARC8 experts will be invited to contribute to policy dialogues

Read more







(Above) Intercultural dialogue and exchange between students in Asia and Europe during their participation in the ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations project

TEACHING & LEARNING PROGRAMME

ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations 2020

ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations are spin-off activities of the ASEF Classroom Network that embrace learning goals for the digital era. Coordinated by ASEFEdu teacher alumni, they are run either as an integral element of the daily school curriculum or as an extracurricular activity. To learn more please check the ASEF ClassNet website.

» A New Education Scenario: Well-being of Teachers, Students & Parents

4 activities were carried out, focusing on 1) Wellbeing & Mental Health, 2) Parent-Teacher Collaboration, 3) Pedagogical Knowledge & Digital Competences and 4) Intercultural Understanding & Exchange through a peer-to-peer learning & support network that created awareness, built resilience & knowledge.

- → Over 60 participants from 21 countries joined the activities
- Over 20 virtual sessions (meeting for peer-to-peer exchange, virtual training, webinars with experts) were conducted on diverse topics that tackled themes from mental health, wellbeing, stress in pedagogical context, vulnerability in a teaching & learning context to digital competence
- → Various education resources such as a handbook, a dictionary on mental health, a tutorial on EdTech tools are being currently developed by participant teachers to support teachers and students across ASEM countries

» STEM Learning Through IoT & Big Data: How is the Weather in Asia and Europe?

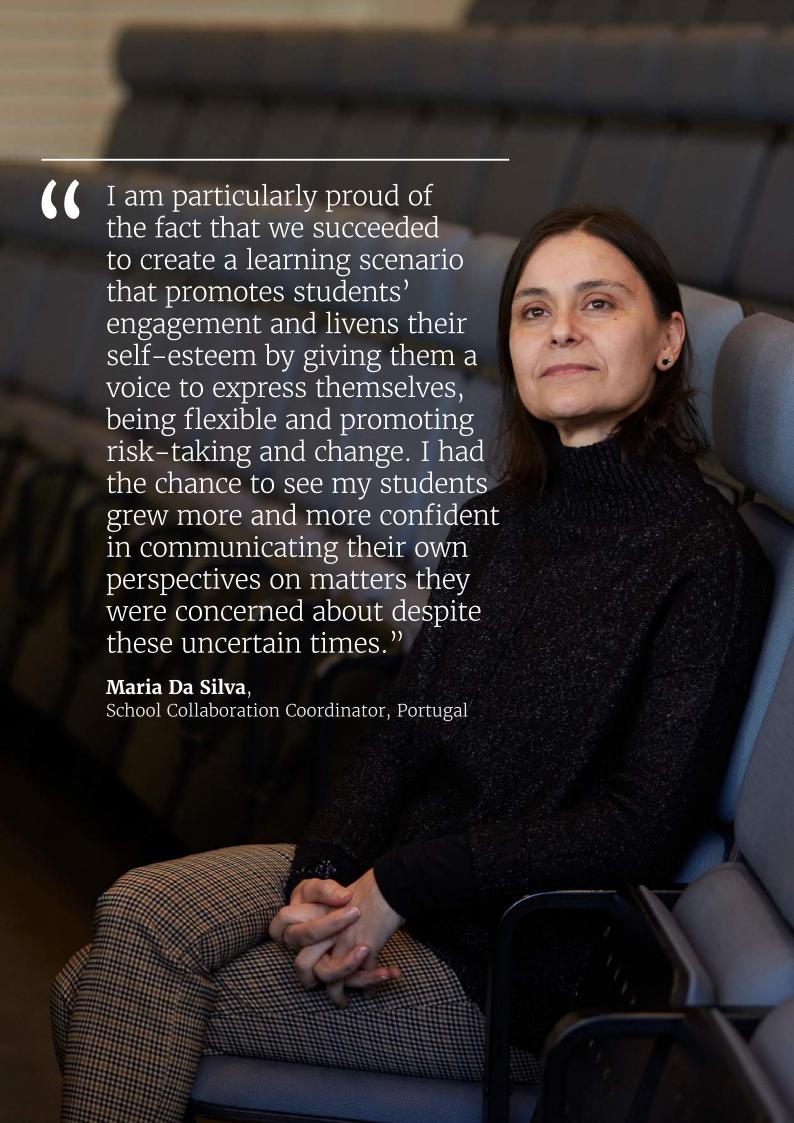
This school collaboration connected schools across Asia and Europe by creating a network of weather stations and internal monitoring devices.

- → In the first phase of this STEM project, 20 schools were selected to join, focusing on experiential teaching & learning opportunities on big data and sustainable development
- → A handbook was developed to introduce secondary school teachers to STEM teaching & learning process through the Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data
- → A weather station was set up on ASEF's premises to enable the ClassNet team to join the future activities planned in 2021

Gender Equitable Al and Al for Gender Equality

An intercultural platform was created to challenge students from ASEM countries to observe the world through the lens of the SDGs, specifically by focusing on gender equality and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and expressing their observations through various writing and visual activities.

- → Engaged 24 Asian and European schools and connected them through a project website & blog
- Over 120 Students enhanced their intercultural understanding, digital competencies and knowledge on SDGs by contributing with videos and articles to the website & blog
- By connecting this School Collaboration with the European eTwinning platform, teachers increased their networks and enhanced their pedagogical capacities



TEACHING & LEARNING PROGRAMME

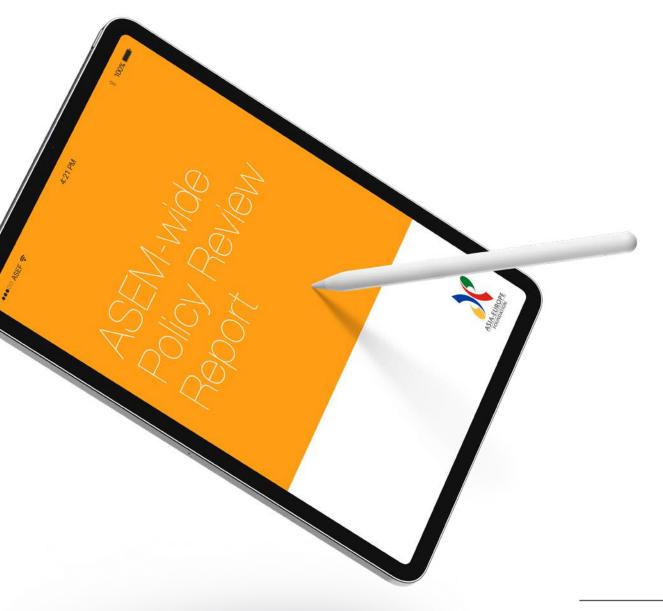
ASEF ClassNet Research & Policy: ASEM-wide Policy Review Report on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) & Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education

As a spin-off activity of the 15th ASEF Classroom Network conference in Tokyo, Japan, ASEF launched an ASEM-wide perception study among teachers and students, mapping out current status, knowledge and perceptions on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Artificial Intelligence in Education.

- » Over 3000 teachers and students from all 51 ASEM countries were engaged in the study
- » ASEF is in the process of creating a comprehensive ASEF ClassNet Insight Report, including a Policy Brief to support policy makers and education leaders in ASEM countries to enhance the learning environment and policies on ESD and AI in the secondary education sector

PARTNER







ASEF's work in Governance promotes dialogue between civil society and government representatives on human rights issues and provides capacity—building opportunities for diplomats engaged in public diplomacy efforts.

ASEF promotes informal, open and non-confrontational dialogue between civil society and government representatives, particularly in human rights. We also make concrete and practical contributions to the ASEM process by providing a tailored capacity-building training for early-/mid-career diplomats and government officials engaged in public diplomacy efforts. Our work in human rights and public diplomacy complement ASEM's political pillar, a key element of the ASEM Process.

We strive to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among ASEM Partners by equipping our training participants with up-to-date tools and necessary approaches for making their domestic policies better understood abroad and by providing a unique networking opportunity to connect Asian and European diplomats. We also add value to Asia-Europe relations by transforming the outcomes of our projects into inputs actionable for Asia-Europe policy dialogue.

From left to right:

Elizabeth DY (Philippines), Admin Executive Simon PIOLDI (Germany), Project Officer Trishia OCTAVIANO (Philippines), Project Executive Yannick BINEAU (France), Director Armi Hannele AARNI (Finland), Project Manager Iulia LUMINA (Romania), Project Officer

Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series (ASEMHRS)

Through the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series (ASEMHRS), we provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue for exchanging views, information and best practices related to human rights in Asia and Europe.

This project is co-organised and co-funded by:













With the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights **Podcast Series**

- → 5 Episodes on "Conversations on Human Rights Education"
- First-ever podcast series that tackles the various strands of human rights education in Asia and Europe
- Interviews with experts from the field of Human Rights Education including Dr Fernand de Varennes, **UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues**
- Listen on Spotify

Conversations on Human Rights Education ing"

» 19th Informal ASEM Seminar on **Human Rights Publication**

ASEMHRS Publication on "Human Rights Education & Train-

The publication provides a comprehensive overview on the state of play on human rights education (HRE) in Asia and Europe and practical recommendations for strengthening the implementation and availability of HRE

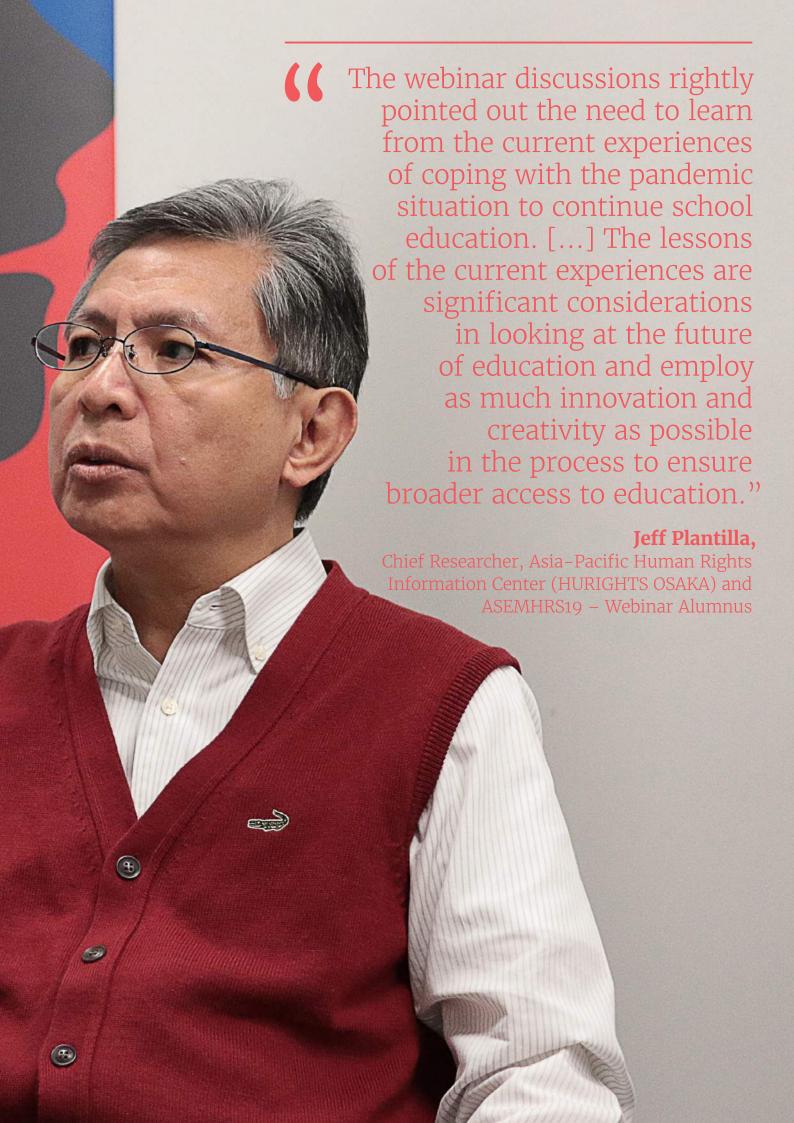
19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

- Webinar on "Access to Education & Human Rights Education in times of COVID-19"
- The webinar aimed to discuss the impacts of COV-ID-19 on access to education and ways to address and strengthen support for educators, trainers, university instructors, and others working in the education sector in formal and informal settings. As a follow-up to the ASEMHRS19, it also discussed how the Seminar recommendations can be implemented even in times of the COVID-19 pandemic
- The full recording of the panel discussion is available on the official ASEF YouTube channel and generated more than 360 views since September 2020

19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

- Virtual Online Training "Human Rights -Compliant Policing" with 4 weekly sessions
- The Training aimed to equip and instruct law enforcement officers with a non-coercive, efficient, and human rights-compliant toolbox for conducting interviews with victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime.
- 28 participants from 16 ASEM Partner countries
- This activity was co-organised in partnership with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) at the University of Oslo, Norway.





ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (ASEFPDT)

The ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (ASEFPDT) combines participatory online learning and face-to-face interactions facilitated by public diplomacy experts and trainers.

ASEF Public Diplomacy Training - Webinar Series

The ASEFPDT Webinar Series aims to provide practical insights on topics relevant in the COVID-19 era, drawing from real-life examples and up-to-date research. The series has so far catered to an audience of more than 2,500 across different platforms.

PARTNER



SUPPORTER





» Webinar 1: "Improve Your Online Health: How to Observe Good Cyber Hygiene in Virtual Meetings"

→ Offered practical tips to non-techie professionals in setting basic safeguards to help ensure that their online meetings are protected from eavesdroppers, party crashers, and potential "Zoombombers"

» Webinar 2: "Lessons on Crisis Communications in the Internet Age"

Equipped diplomats and public servants engaged in public communications with basic strategies of crisis communications to support efficient and accurate dissemination of data and information during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

» Webinar 4: "Public Diplomacy and Discourse in the Age of Algorithms"

 Tackled the socio-political and ethical issues surrounding Internet algorithms and their implications for public life

8th ASEF Public Diplomacy Training - Online Training

- → First component of the ASEFPDT8 Online Course (23 October 17 December 2020)
- The online component of ASEFPDT8 is designed and managed in partnership with the DiploFoundation
- → 21 participants from 20 ASEM Partners

Webinar 3: "How relevant is cultural diplomacy in the face of a global crisis?"

 Discussed the relevance of and identified new ways of conducting cultural diplomacy at a time when nations are battling a public health crisis

→ This webinar was organised with the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore







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.

Aligned with the agenda of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEF creates unique networking platforms for the exchange of views and ideas as well as cooperation among mass media representatives of Asia and Europe. ASEF organises two Media programmes, 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 is responsible for increasing awareness of ASEF and its projects across Asia and Europe. We do this through the ASEF website and multiple social media channels, as well as the ASEM InfoBoard (AIB), which is ASEM's official information platform.

With the onset of COVID-19 and the imposition of global travel restrictions, the Communications Department led the development of ASEF's digital ecosystem and initiated new programmes to continue the exchange of ideas.

From left to right:

Martin VIDANES, Communications Executive (Philippines)
Fatima AVILA, Communications Manager (Philippines)
Lawrence ANDERSON, Director (Singapore)
Gemma LUENGO, Communications Manager (Spain)
Saifudin Hamjuri SAMSURI, Communications Manager (Singapore)

Not in Picture:

JIANG Linnan (China) until 9 October 2020

ASEF Integrated Digital Ecosystem (AIDE)

ASEF's key project for 2020 was the establishment of AIDE. The aim is to equip ASEF with the necessary tools and skills to successfully run virtual and hybrid projects during COVID-19 and after the pandemic is over. AIDE's main components are as follows:

» Development of essential digital tools

- → Various digital tools have been acquired to equip ASEF in running virtual events (webinars, online conferences, workshops etc)
- We also streamlined many existing tools I.e. consolidating separate accounts and discontinuing services no longer required

» Revamping the ASEF website

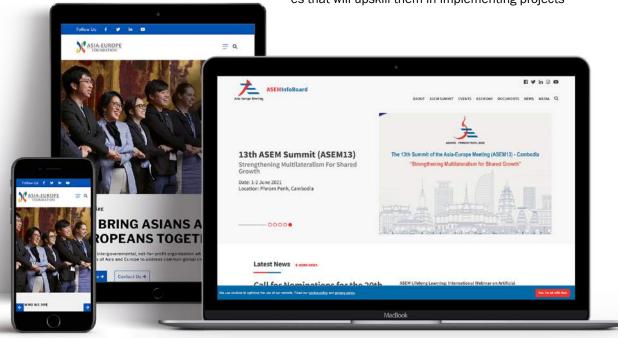
- → Completed in December 2020
- → Explore the new website

» Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

→ Efforts have also been made for a CRM solution and an initial set-up is expected in the coming months

» Digital-related training for ASEF staff

→ Apart from the support provided by COM staff, ASEF has subscribed to an online learning platform where staff have access to an array of online courses that will upskill them in implementing projects



ASEM InfoBoard (AIB)

Visit ASEMInfoBoard.org »

The official information platform of the ASEM Process

- » Lists all official ASEM events including ASEM Summits, ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings, and other Ministerial meetings
- » Provides the latest updates and news about ASEM initiatives and related activities
- » Archives all relevant public documents including Chair's Statements, Declarations, Reports

Meet our ASEF Family and Friends

We introduced a new initiative to familiarise our growing audience to ASEF's Governors and staff, as well as resource experts, participants and friends. The aim is to show the human side of our networks as ASEF strives to remain a core facilitator of people-to-people connectivity within the ASEM region.



Mr Javier Parrondo, ASEF Governor



Video interview

- Mr Sun Xiangyang, former ASEF **Acting Executive Director**
- Ms Nadja Tjahja, alumna of the ASEF 12th Journalists' Seminar
- Ambassador Leon Faber, **ASEF Deputy Executive Director**



ASEF'S First **Hybrid event**

- Featured ASEF's first Executive Director, Ambassador Tommy Koh who presided over the beginning of serious engagements between Asia and Europe through the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process
- Amb Koh was in conversation with Mr Lawrence Anderson, ASEF's Communications Director to share his recollections of ASEF/ASEM's early years and insights on addressing common global challenges; watch it here
- 500 live audience from over 40 countries in Asia and Europe



Media **Op-Ed piece**

Ambassador Tommy Koh and Mr Lawrence Anderson cowrote an op-ed piece entitled What Asia, Europe can do to fight world's 3 major crises which was published in the Straits Times (Singapore)



Asia-Europe Sustainability Connectivity Conference (AESCON)

Strengthening Asia-Europe Links through Data and Research

23-25 SEPTEMBER 2020

Learn more »

ASEF is a proud partner of AESCON, the first scientific conference on Asia-Europe sustainable connectivity, bringing together researchers and policy analysts working in the field of connectivity, globalization.

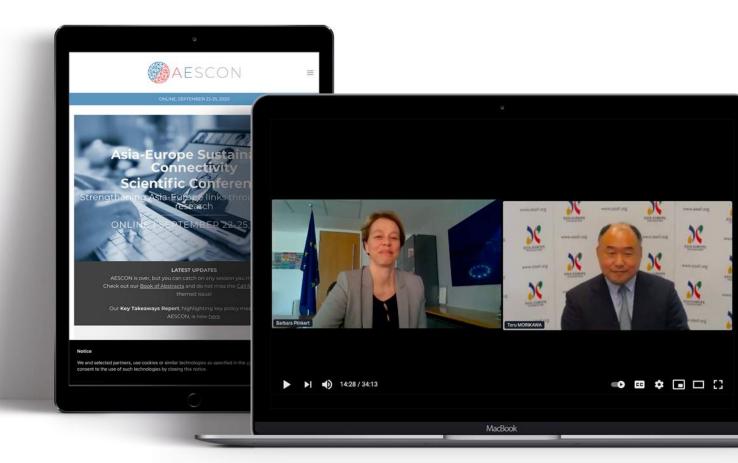
- The topic of connectivity and its impact on sustainable development is high on ASEM's policy agenda
- » The conference therefore served as a platform for debate, to spur future research linked to policy needs and to build a network of researchers working on sustainable connectivity
- » In his opening speech, ASEF Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru called for enhanced connectivity between Asia and Europe
- » The ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal was a useful platform to facilitate discussion and exchange of ideas

PARTNERS









HE Barbara PLINKERT, European Union's Ambassador to Singapore and ASEF Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru at the opening ceremony of AESCON ASEF Seminar on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): To Bloc or Not to Block?

10 DECEMBER 2020

Learn more »

Read the Report»

ASEF is proud to have held one of the first seminars on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on 10 Dec 2020. The hybrid seminar achieved its main objective to generate awareness of the implications of this historic agreement that had created the world's largest trading bloc covering a third of the world's population and economic output.

- The seminar also addressed the chief benefits to members, potential drawbacks that might deter others from joining, and whether countries outside the region or their companies saw practical advantages in engaging with RCEP
- » The distinguished panel of speakers provided insightful comments to an online audience of diplomats, public officers, businessmen and women, and academics engaged in international trade and commerce
- » While the panellists agreed that the RCEP is a significant agreement, they also noted that the agreement had not been ratified yet
- » Hence, the business community is encouraged to take a closer look at and discuss both the merits and disadvantages of the agreement
- » The hybrid seminar welcomed 125 participants live from over 40 countries in Asia and Europe





From left to right: Federico DONATO, President of the European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore; Barbara PLINKERT, EU Ambassador to Singapore; Leo FABER, ASEF Deputy Executive Director; Locknie HSU, Professor of Law at Singapore Management University; Mary Elizabeth CHELLIAH, Principal Trade Specialist at the Ministry of Trade and Industry; MORIKAWA Toru, ASEF Executive Director; and Lawrence ANDERSON, ASEF Director for Communications

OUTREACH

Journalist and former ASEF Editors' Roundtable participant interviews our Executive Director for the Astana Times

Read More»

ASEF Editors' Roundtable

Learn More»

The ASEFERT10 will take place in late May 2021, following the postponement of the 13th ASEM Summit. It will feature 24 news editors and senior journalists from Asia and Europe, in a hybrid format under the topic "Strengthening the Cooperation Between Journalists in Combating Fake News".



ASEF's work in Sustainable Development and Public Health ignites debates in climate change policy and the UN 2030 Agenda, and provides a platform for public health dialogue across Asia and Europe

Nur A'in RAZAK (Singapore), Project Officer Riko KIMOTO (Japan), Project Manager

Not in picture: Kareena SAMTANI (Singapore) until 6 September 2020

Public <u>Heal</u>th



ASEFs contribution is made possible from the financial support of the Government of Japan

Following the 6th ASEM Summit in 2006, where Asian and European leaders expressed their determination to combat avian influenza and a possible human influenza pandemic, the ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, financially supported by the Government of Japan, was approved in principle at the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting in 2008. It was officially launched at the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2009. Since then, the 2 components of the Initiative (ASEM Stockpiling of Anti-viral Drugs and Personal Protective Equipment, as well as ASEF Public Health Network) have contributed to strengthening ASEM Partners' capacity to manage public health emergencies.

The **ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN)** has been promoting a bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), including pandemic influenza. It provides a platform to encourage public health dialogue among ASEM Partners to facilitate multi-sector knowledge sharing between health and non-health sectors including governments, international and non-profit organisations, businesses, academia, and the media. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges across different sectors, and ASEF PHN is uniquely positioned to address issues surrounding the pandemic with a cross-sectoral approach.

ASEM and ASEF contribute to global response to COVID-19



ASEFs contribution is made possible from the financial support of the Government of Japan



In 2020, our PPE stockpile was distributed to various ASEM partner countries in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

- » 7 February 2020: 4,800 safety goggles and 5,200 isolation suits were sent to **China**
- » 17 February 2020: 5,220 safety goggles and 5,000 isolation suits were sent to **China**
- » 22 February 2020: 26,400 Surgical Masks, 12,000 N95 Masks, 9,360 isolation gowns, 480 alcohol hand rubs, 540 safety goggles, and 24,400 gloves were sent to **Cambodia**
- » 25 February 2020: 13,200 Surgical Masks, 6,000 N95 Masks, 4,680 isolation gowns, 240 alcohol hand rubs, 270 safety goggles and 12,200 gloves were sent to Lao PDR
- » 5 March 2020: 26,400 Surgical Masks, 12,000 N95 Masks 9,360 isolation gowns, 480 alcohol hand rubs, 540 safety goggles, and 24,400 gloves were sent to the **Philippines**
- » 5 March 2020: 13,200 Surgical Masks, 6,000 N95 Masks 4,680 isolation gowns, 240 alcohol hand rubs, 270 safety goggles and 12,200 gloves were sent to **Mongolia**

Investing in health security during "peace time" increases readiness for a pandemic.

PPE Shipment.
Photo courtesy
of ANA Cargo Inc.

Asia-Europe Virtual Forum on Combatting Substandard and Falsified Medicines (SFMs)

PARTNER





ASEFs contribution is made possible from the financial support of the Government of Japan

(Right) In photo: HE Prof Mam BUNHENG, Minister of Health, Cambodia ASEF Public Health Network, together with the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia, organised the Asia-Europe Virtual Forum on Combatting Substandard and Falsified Medicines (SFMs). The forum was conducted virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was the first time for ASEF PHN to focus on issues surrounding SFMs.

- Provided a unique opportunity to gather diverse sectors together in order to tackle SFMs. It was attended by over 200 participants virtually, including the officials from ASEM Partners' Ministries of health, law enforcement and regulatory sectors, international organisations such as WHO and UNODC, scholars as well as representatives from the private sector
- » Produced 12 key recommendations, and the outcome was used to form a round table discussion organised by other organisations working on SFMs (refer to the next entry: round table on 2 December)
- » Recognised an urgent need to protect our citizens from SFMs during the COV-ID-19 pandemic. It called for inclusion of strategies against SFMs in the emergency response measures aimed at tackling the pandemic
- » The proposed key recommendations had an emphasis on both international and cross-sectoral collaboration. A single sector approach will not work on combatting SFMs, and one country alone cannot solve this issue in an interdependent world. These recommendations will be elevated to the next ASEM Summit, ASEM 13. scheduled on 1-2 June 2021 in Cambodia





(Left) ASEF facilitated session on drafting the proposed key recommendations for the 13th ASEM Summit #ASEM13 from delegates of the Asia-Europe Virtual Forum on Combatting Substandard and Falsified Medicines (SFMs). In the photos:

Amb. Leon FABER, Deputy Executive Director; Ms Riko KIMOTO, Project Manager, Public Health; Ms Fatima AVILA, Project Manager, Communications

SDGs and AMR— A Silent Pandemic

4 NOVEMBER 2020

PARTNER





ASEFs contribution is made possible from the financial support of the Government of Japan



Health Agenda Post COVID-19 – Example of AMR and Mindful eaters

9 NOVEMBER 2020



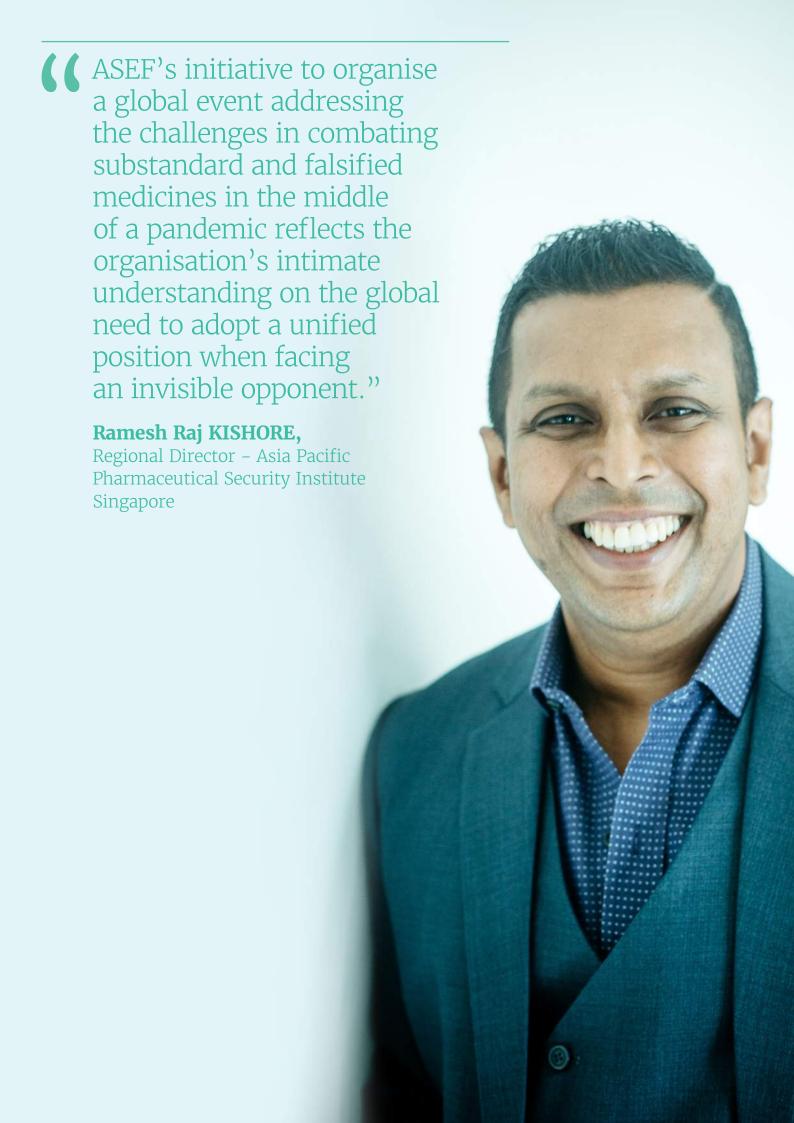
ASEFs contribution is made possible from the financial support of the Government of Japan

The ASEF Public Health Network hosted a session in the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) on AMR to link the health and non-health sector in order to increase awareness to trigger much-needed actions to mitigate AMR among the general public. While AMR may appear as a problem limited to the healthcare setting or the health sector, every person has a role to play in fighting against AMR, just as how we individually should reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Key Achievements and Highlights of the Project

- » The session was attended by representatives from various sectors bridging health and non-health sectors to tackle AMR
- » The participants agreed that a change in consumers behaviour can be an influential factor and might trigger the change of the existing food system. Awareness of AMR should be included in the factor to influence consumers' behaviour. Such behaviour change will protect us from the potential catastrophe in the future running out of the effective treatment due to AMR, which can cause a disease outbreak affecting our society just like COVID-19
- » The session resulted in a policy brief





Sustainable Development

ASEF engages civil society, governments, and businesses on national, regional, and international levels to build capacity on issues of sustainability. We organise workshops, dialogue platforms, and knowledge hub meetings that produce research on the state of sustainability in Asia and Europe. We align our work with the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to the global debate on climate change through the ASEM Process.

Established in 2003, the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) is the main programme of ASEF's work in Sustainable Development. The programme is based on three pillars: (1) It undertakes research on SDGs and their associated indicators, and on climate change; (2) it organises knowledge-hub meetings of experts working on SDGs and indicators as well as on the Green Economy and climate change; and (3) It disseminates the outcomes of its research and consultations to policymakers, civil society members and businesses.



CONSORTIUM PARTNERS













ENVforum Webinar Series

In the lead up to the ENVforum Annual conference, ASEF organised three thematic webinars on Single-Use Plastic, Sustainable Garments, and Antimicrobial Resistance Impact on Achieving the SDGs.

Single-Use Plastic (Never)Ending Story: Initiatives in ASEM 28 October 2020

Multi-stakeholder representatives from Asia and Europe were gathered to tackle the overconsumption of single-use plastic and had the following key takeaways:

- Governments have various means available to support the move towards circular economy approaches, however, there is more work to be done to support this transition
- Businesses across ASEM have a crucial role in taking forward innovations to reduce single-use plastics. There is a potential to scale-up and create synergies among various initiatives if single-use plastic waste reduction activities are supported by the right regulation and funding schemes and coordinated across the supply chains

The Future of Sustainable Garments in Asia and Europe 3 November 2020

The second instalment of the webinar series gathered multi-stakeholder representatives from Asia and Europe to explore what is needed to shift towards a more sustainable garment industry and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the industry. The key takeaways were:

- Textile consumption and production is highly globalised with millions of producers and billions of consumers across the globe. Due to the unequal distribution of garment consumption and production patterns across the globe, the negative environmental and social impacts from the industry are concentrated on producing countries which may not necessarily consume as much
- Shifting towards a more sustainable garment industry needs a systemic change towards circularity. This requires the mainstreaming of circular business models supported by effective policies addressing materials and design, production, and distribution, use and reuse, collection and recycling

PARTNERS



IN COLLABORATION WITH





SDGs and AMR - A Silent Pandemic

4 November 2020

The final instalment of the webinar series serves as an introductory session to understand basic issues surrounding antimicrobial resistance (AMR), discuss its similarity with COV-ID-19, and explored ways for intersectoral collaboration. The key takeaway is:

Applying the ongoing experience in combating COVID-19, the health sector alone cannot combat public health challenges-inter-sectoral collaboration between health and non-health sectors is vital ported by the right regulation and funding schemes and coordinated across the supply chains

PARTNERS

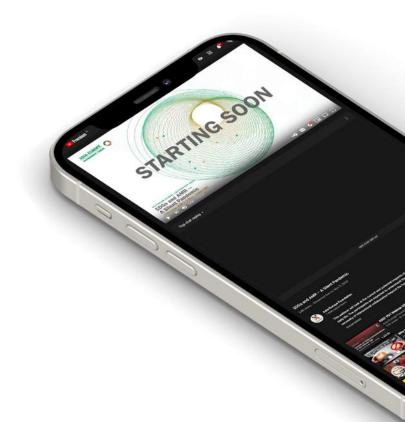


IN COLLABORATION WITH



ASEFs contribution is made possible from the financial support of the Government of Japan

Public Health Network



ENVforum Annual Conference 2020: "Connecting the dots: Creating an enabling environment for SDG12 in ASEM"

9-11 NOVEMBER 2020

This year's flagship event brought new perspectives on the topics of antimicrobial resistance (AMR); inclusive food value chains; sustainable garments; and single-use plastics, all with special consideration to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Achievements/Highlights:

- Featured over 30 experts and practitioners from civil society organisations, governments, and businesses in Asia and Europe
- 443 registrations from 46 ASEM partner countries
- More than 80% of participants surveyed indicated that the conference was inclusive and interactive
- 79% were able to make new connections, and met their personal objectives from joining the conference

Read the Policy Briefs:



Health Agenda Post COVID-19 -

Example of AMR and "Mindful Eaters"



Inclusive Food Value Chains

in Sustainable Production and Consumption



Garments Sustainability

in Asia and Europe



Single-Use Plastic Waste Reduction

Efforts in Asia and Europe

PARTNERS



IN COLLABORATION WITH

STREAM 1 OF AMR IS IN COLLABORATION WITH





Public Health Network



ASEF's contribution for Stream 1 is made possible with the financial support of the Government of Japan



ASEF Participation at External Events

Despite global travel restrictions in 2020, ASEF continued to engage actively in topical conversations across Asia and Europe. In particular, ASEF participated in various virtual and hybrid roundtables, panel discussions, and conferences that tackled the challenges posed by COVID-19 across sectors and continents. The discussions centered on concerted efforts required for socio-economic recovery, digitalisation and enhanced connectivity, and the more urgent need for an exchange of ideas and collaboration in the "new normal" and the post-COVID-19 world.



Singapore International Foundation roundtable on Building People-to-People Relations Against the Backdrop of COVID-19 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

ASEF participated at the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) roundtable on Building People-to-People Relations Against the Backdrop of COVID-19 on 18 September 2020. Director for Communications Mr Lawrence ANDERSON represented ASEF at the event attended by other intergovernmental, national and cultural institutions to discuss challenges that organisations were facing during these unprecedented times.

Learn more

Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity Conference (AESCON)

22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Our Executive Director, MORIKAWA Toru, delivered the opening remarks at the Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity Conference (AESCON) on 22 September 2020 where he advocated for enhanced sustainable connectivity between Asia and Europe, the leading trade partners of the world.

AESCON is organised by the European Union, ASEF, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and the Center for China & Globalization.

Learn more

The Digitalisation of International Cooperation: What Should Theatres Expect in the Era of New Globalisation roundtable at the International Theatre Festival of Baltic House, St Petersburg

Deputy Executive Director Ambassador Leon FABER spoke on Asia-Europe cultural co-operation in the 'new normal': what we have learnt and the way ahead. He also elaborated on various opportunities for cultural professionals and the youth offered by ASEF.

Singapore International Energy Week 2020

ASEF is a proud supporter of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2020. ASEF Director for Communications, Mr Lawrence ANDERSON, former Ambassador of Singapore to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, moderated the keynote session: In Conversation with His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Energy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 26 October 2020.

SIEW is organised by Singapore's Energy Market Authority.

Learn more

The Astana Times features ASEF in an interview with Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru

28 OCTOBER 2020

Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru highlighted that Kazahkstan is an important partner of ASEF and invited the Kazakh people to stay connected with ASEF and participate more in our open calls and projects both as participants and expert contributors.

Learn more

2020 ENCATC Digital Congress: Cultural management and policy in a post-digital world - navigating uncertainty

3 NOVEMBER 2020

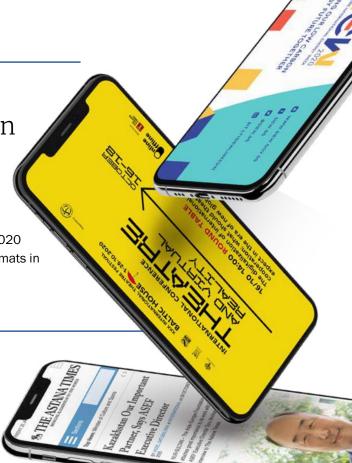
Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru gave an opening address at the 2020 ENCATC Digital Congress where he highlighted the need for creative formats in the 'new normal'.

Learn more

A Culture of Resilience: Mobilising Arts, Culture and Heritage—Win the Race to Zero

17 NOVEMBER 2020

Deputy Executive Director Ambassador Leon FABER spoke on the role of arts, culture and heritage in achieving a climate-resilient world.



G-global conference "The world of the XXI century"

Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru underlined the need to work together to solve major problems that affect all of us and assured participants that ASEF stood ready to do our part together with partners like Kazakhstan, and the countries of Eurasia, in this endeavour.

G-global is part of the Astana Economic Forum. Learn more.

European Higher Education Area (EHEA) 2020 Ministerial Conference

19 NOVEMBER 2020

Director for Education Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN joined a Global Dialogue Panel on "Moving towards 2030: what cooperation in higher education should look like and how to build it" as part of the European Higher Education (EHEA) Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference.

Learn more

Asia in Review Online Panel Discussion on The Next Crisis? The Impact on Climate Change on Communities in Southeast Asia

9 DECEMBER 2020

Acting Director for Sustainable Development and Public Health Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA spoke on climate change mitigation strategies in Southeast Asia as part of a panel that explored the role ASEAN can play to sustain stability and growth in this region.

Learn more

Roundtable: Medicine Quality & innovations to detect Substandard and Falsified Medicines

2 DECEMBER 2020

Project Manager for Public Health Ms Riko KIMOTO emphasised the importance of both international and cross-sectoral collaboration. She also presented the outcome of ASEF's Asia-Europe Forum on SFMs, which formed a basis of the discussion for the roundtable.

Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), in collaboration with RBM Partnership to End Malaria (RBM), Unitaid, Medicines We Can Trust campaign and United States Pharmacopeia (USP) are pleased to invite you to

MALARIA

GAMECHANGERS:

A HEALTH INNOVATION SERIES

ONLINE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: MEDICINE QUALITY & INNOVATION DETECT SUBSTANDARD AND FALSIFIED MEDICINES (SFMs) IN ASIA PA

Join us for a discussion highlighting the importance of access to quality health conjunctions, and the role of various government agencies in ensurther than the collaboration of the collaboration with RBM.

Micsock



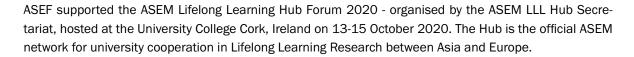
COVID-19 Post-Action Plan: How ASEM could help handle the global pandemic and what to do next

This webinar was organised by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the LSPR Communication & Business Institute in Jakarta. Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru spoke on the ASEF Public Health Network and the stockpiling of Anti-Viral Drugs & Personal and Protective Equipment.

Learn more

ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Forum 2020

13-15 OCTOBER 2020



Learn more

4th ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management

Deputy Executive Director, Ambassador Leon Faber highlighted that multilateral cooperation is necessary as water recognises no borders. In doing so, we must however ensure that actions take into account various social and environmental impacts.

Learn more

14th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting: Addressing COVID-19: Ensuring a Strong, Sustainable, Inclusive, and Balanced Recovery

In his statement, Executive Director MORIKAWA Toru iterated that recovering from the COVID-19 is a collective responsibility requiring coordinated efforts. He highlighted the several points related to ASEF's work in various fields including public health, the environment, education, and culture.



ASEF side-events at the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13)



3 ASEF side-events are taking place in conjunction with ASEM13 which was postponed from 2020 to 2021.

10th ASEF Editors' Roundtable (ASEFERT10)

ASEFERT10 is aimed at promoting dialogue, strengthening ties and cross-continental cooperation between 20-30 news editors or senior journalists to exchange perspectives on current affairs pertinent to both Asia and Europe.



PARTNER





4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4)

The ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS) is ASEM's official Youth platform that connects young people with the Heads of States and Governments from 51 Asian & European countries and the EU & the ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEFYLS4 is a fully-funded 10-month long youth leadership programme focusing on 'Sustainable Development in a Post-COVID-19 World'.

CO-ORGANISERS



ក្រូសូខការបរទេស និខសចម្រតិបត្តិការអន្តរប៉ាតិ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation











PARTNER

ASEF's contribution is funded by the European Union



ASEM Cultural Festival (ASEMfest)

The ASEM Cultural Festival, an ASEM-led initiative, is a public arts festival showcasing artistic excellence from and collaborations among the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Partners. Titled 'Asia & Europe: Cultures Connect', the Festival celebrates traditional and contemporary arts from Asia & Europe through performances, exhibitions, and discussions from the two regions.

CO-ORGANISERS





ASEF's contribution is funded by the European Union

Human Resources Overview

Human resources are the most valuable asset of ASEF and they best reflect the diversity of the Foundation, even if we do not have representatives of from all Members. Considering that Asian population is much larger than the European population, we can be satisfied with the current mix. We are proud to have 19 nationalities represented in our organisation. While the European group is quite diversified, Singaporeans make up almost half of the Asian staff, which is understandable as ASEF is based in Singapore and incorporated under Singapore law.

24 ASIANS

12 EUROPEANS

ASEF staff is mainly divided into seconded staff from Members (4), financed by their respective government on one side and those who are employed by ASEF (32) on the other hand.

26 FEMALE 10 MALE

ASEF is an equal opportunity employer and we will make sure to maintain a balanced representation in the future.

ASIA

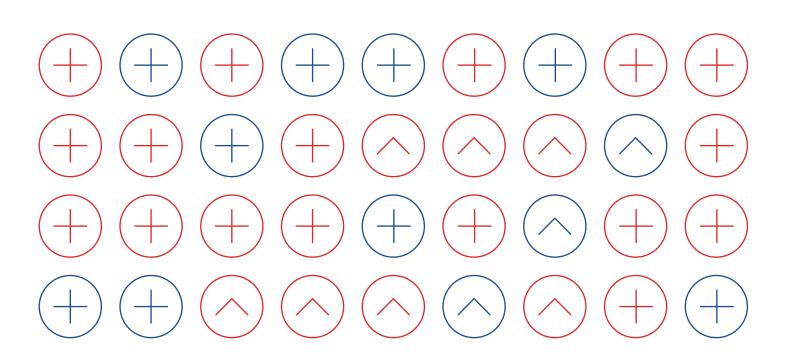
Bangladesh	1
China	1
India	2
Japan	2
Malaysia	1
Mongolia	1
Philippines	5
Singapore	11

FUROPE

EUROPE		
Finland	1	_
France	1	
Germany	2	
Hungary	1	
Italy	1	_
Luxembourg	1	
Poland	1	
Romania	1	
Slovenia	1	_
Spain	1	_
United Kingdom	1	_

19 NATIONALITIES

36 STAFF





ASEF's Finance & Administration are managed by:

From left to right:

Michael LASERNA (Philippines), Administrative Executive Sarbjit KAUR (Singapore), Accountant LAM Kong Chai (Singapore), Director YAM Lay Nah (Singapore), Finance Manager Eason CHONG (Malaysia), Accounts Executive Irene YAP (Singapore), Accounts Executive

Financial Information

 $\frac{\text{*unaudited figures as at } 31 \text{ Dec } 2020}{\text{Receipts have been converted to Singapore Dollars SGD at transaction date rates}}$

2020 INFORMATION (SGD)

YTD 1997 to 2020 (SGD)

		TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL OPERATING FUND	TOTAL PROJECT FUND (INCL TRUST FUND)	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION 1997 - 2020	TOTAL OPERATING FUND	TOTAL PROJECT FUND (Incl. Trust Fund)	TOTAL RESERVE FUND
1	ASEAN Secretariat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
2	Australia	53,474.16	53,474.16	0.00	571,238	571,238	0	0
3	Austria	52,541.28	52,541.28	0.00	2,276,036	2,276,037	0	0
4	Bangladesh	21,198.20	21,198.20	0.00	144,091	144,091	0	0
5	Belgium ¹	20,013.84	0.00	20,013.84	2,652,785	1,111,460	134,646	1,406,678
6	Brunei Darussalam ²	163,767.48	163,767.48	0.00	2,693,940	2,693,940	0	0
7	Bulgaria	33,269.17	33,269.17	0.00	473,007	473,006	0	0
8	Cambodia	14,132.13	14,132.13	0.00	184,648	184,648	0	0
9	China	1,226,954.70	327,187.92	899,766.78	11,244,233	8,241,080	3,003,154	0
10	Croatia	4,708.64	4,708.64	0.00	18,744	18,744	0	0
11	Cyprus	7,548.52	7,548.52	0.00	144,379	144,378	0	0
12	Czech Republic	36,663.38	36,663.38	0.00	817,512	817,512	0	0
13	Denmark	72,005.92	0.00	72,005.92	4,517,878	4,320,041	197,836	0
14	Estonia	15,920.61	15,920.61	0.00	244,910	244,910	0	0
15	European Union ²	1,121,075.22	0.00	1,121,075.22	26,214,631	4,389,163	19,972,069	1,853,400
16	Finland	40,229.06	40,229.06	0.00	4,061,092	4,061,092	0	0
17	France	145,077.30	32,355.88	112,721.42	8,781,023	1,785,068	5,981,555	1,014,400
18	Germany	339,548.00	339,548.00	0.00	9,355,854	9,355,854	0	0
19	Greece	0.00	0.00	0.00	403,401	377,871	0	25,530
20	Hungary	39,801.53	39,801.53	0.00	1,005,209	1,005,209	0	0
21	India	169,585.56	169,585.56	0.00	2,151,119	2,151,119	0	0
22	Indonesia	80,682.36	80,682.36	0.00	1,849,331	1,849,331	0	0
23	Ireland	156,954.70	156,954.70	0.00	3,029,106	3,029,106	0	0
24	Italy	28,657.10	28,657.10	0.00	2,277,468	2,277,468	0	0
25	Japan	613,478.00	156,619.00	456,859.00	14,843,975	5,238,152	9,605,823	0
26	Kazakhstan ²	58,588.42	58,588.42	0.00	179,185	179,185	0	0
27	Korea	230,692.63	230,692.63	0.00	7,195,501	5,507,563	345,900	1,342,038
28	Lao PDR	6,723.53	6,723.53	0.00	111,297	111,297	0	0
29	Latvia	36,670.63	36,670.63	0.00	498,585	498,585	0	0
30	Lithuania	32,022.14	32,022.14	0.00	344,454	344,454	0	0
31	Luxembourg	123,279.92	123,279.92	0.00	6,955,015	5,901,161	0	1,053,853
32	Malaysia	80,682.36	80,682.36	0.00	1,878,224	1,312,313	0	565,911
33	Malta	3,852.50	3,852.50	0.00	60,085	60,085	0	0
34	Mongolia	9,381.74	9,381.74	0.00	75,706	75,706	0	0
35	Myanmar	27,196.06	27,196.06	0.00	418,041	418,041	0	0
36	Netherlands	112,064.26	0.00	112,064.26	3,744,835	3,525,858	218,977	0
37	New Zealand	55,000.00	55,000.00	0.00	919,965	919,965	0	0
38	Norway	101,267.29	101,267.29	0.00	1,109,397	1,071,900	37,497	0
39	Pakistan	32,693.14	32,693.14	0.00	472,067	472,067	0	0
40	Philippines	101,801.18	88,168.35	13,632.83	1,526,123	1,512,491	13,633	0
41	Poland	75,611.75	75,611.75	0.00	1,320,278	1,320,278	0	0
42	Portugal	31,706.54	31,706.54	0.00	1,537,883	660,570	0	877,313
43	Romania	0.00	0.00	0.00	420,903	420,903	0	0
44	Russian Federation	204,492.45	204,492.45	0.00	1,610,303	1,610,303	0	0
45	Singapore	275,346.20	275,346.20	0.00	8,954,422	5,525,122	0	3,429,300
46	Slovakia	16,011.07	16,011.07	0.00	141,424	141,424	0	0
47	Slovenia	15,808.05	15,808.05	0.00	354,505	354,505	0	0
48	Spain	47,000.73	47,000.73	0.00	3,051,023	3,051,023	0	0
49	Sweden	172,381.54	172,381.54	0.00	3,654,303	3,654,303	0	0
50	Switzerland	325,429.87	178,520.29	146,909.58	1,593,897	1,446,988	146,910	0
51	Thailand	110,608.80	110,608.80	0.00	2,759,106	1,360,991	0	1,398,114
52	United Kingdom ³	89,310.70	0.00	89,310.70	2,453,044	1,038,609	1,414,436	0
53	Viet Nam	41,799.84	41,799.84	0.00	812,007	812,007	0	0
	TOTAL SGD	6,874,710.20	3,830,350.65	3,044,359.55	154,107,186	100,068,211	41,072,436	12,966,538

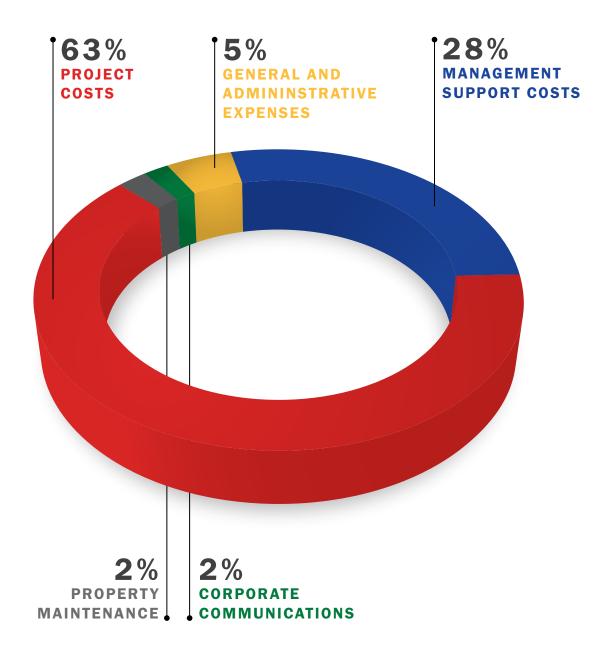
This table (denominated in Singapore dollars) lays out the receipt/receivable¹ of funding from ASEF members countries by calendar year for reference. The financial year for Years 1997-2005 was from 1 April to 31 March. In 2006, the financial year was changed to end on 31 December.

Note:

- Include amount receivable for year 2020 and balance 2019 contribution.
- Include amount received for year 2020 and 2019 contribution.
- Amount received for year 2019 contribution

The contributions received from ASEF 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
- 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 ASEF if necessary.



ASEF's annual audit has not been completed at the time of printing. The financial figures reported on page 49 are unaudited figures as at 31 December 2020. ASEF's audited financial statements will be available, separately, at a later date.

^{*}Project Costs also include project secretarial/staff costs, and exclude project expenses covered by external project partner

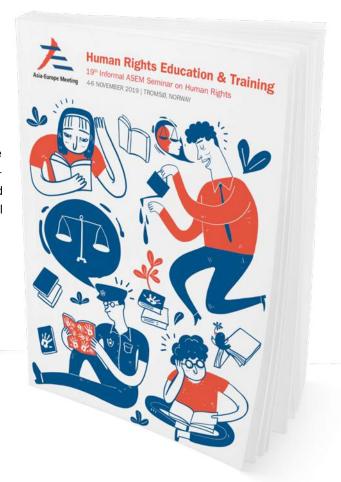
^{**}Management Support Costs include Executive Office costs and staff costs (Management & Administration)

Publications

19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: "Human Rights Education & Training"

The publication details the proceedings of the 19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights and provides a comprehensive background on human rights education in Asia and Europe. An essential resource for educators, policymakers, scholars, and advocates, it covers human rights education in school systems, informal, non-formal and professional settings; access to human rights education; and national implementation and international cooperation.

View on ASEF.org »



Media Trust & Information in the Digital Age ASEF MEDIA HANDBOOK

ASEF Media Handbook

Under the topic "Media Trust & Information in the Digital Age", the 12th ASEF Journalists' Seminar (ASEFJS12), at the sidelines of the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Madrid, Spain enabled a diverse exchange of ideas about the role of Media in our societies. This Media Handbook includes articles that we believe will facilitate a better understanding about what trust in the media and information sharing looks like from both Asian and European perspectives.

View on ASEF.org »

Websites

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: culture, economy, education, governance, media, sustainable development, and public health. In addition to information about participation in our projects, visitors also have access to ASEF publications, signing up to our newsletter, and links to our partners.

In 2020, we launched our newly designed wevbsite. We made it faster, easier to navigate, more user-friendly and dynamic.

ASEMInfoBoard.org

As 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.

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arc.ASEF.org

The ARC website provides comprehensive information on the ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC) series and its spin-off activities. It also serves as a knowledge repository featuring research, commissioned papers, student surveys, opinion articles produced by the participants on the ARC topics. University and student leaders, experts, researchers and policy makers from all ASEM Partner countries are invited to discover and utilize content produced in this project series.

culture360.ASEF.org

Culture 360 is a digital 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 13 years, this online platform 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.









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 webportal serves as the main platform for communication, networking and collaboration among teachers and students from Asia and Europe.

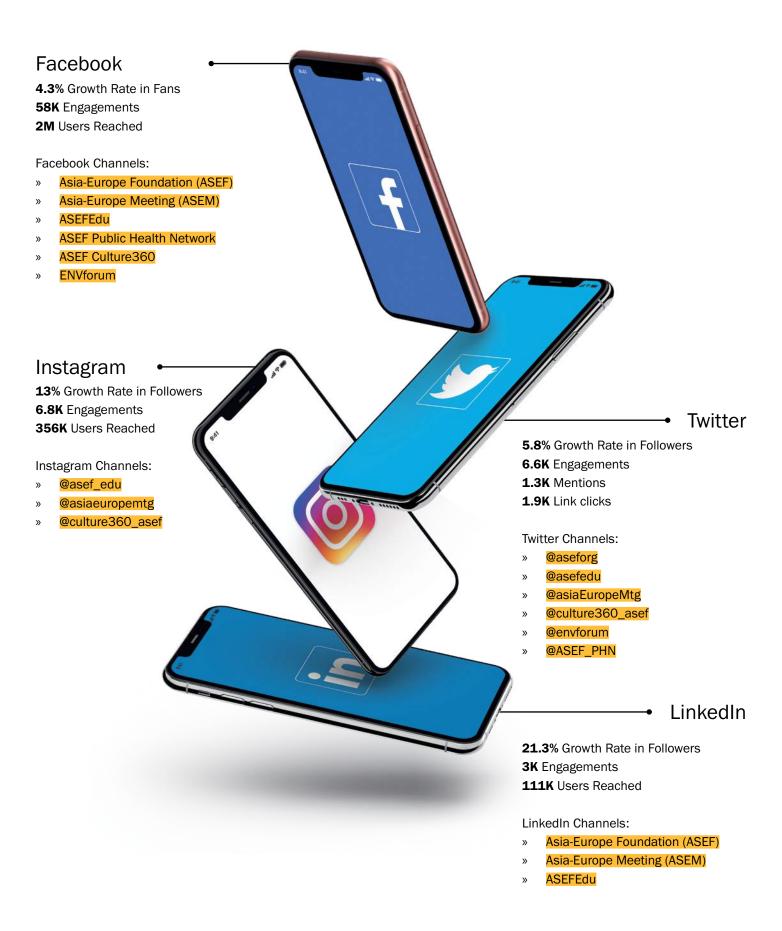
mobilityfirst.ASEF.org •

Launched in 2017, *Mobility First!*, a travel grant of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), 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. In 2020, a COVID-19 section was added to provide updates on open calls and showcase alumni activities related to the pandemic.

www.asemculturalfestival.com

The ASEM Cultural Festival website serves as a central platform to present all the editions of the Festival as well as host special features such as virtual arts events, interviews with artists, sneak peek at select performances and behind-the-scenes stories. This website will also offer audiences from Asia & Europe the opportunity to connect with featured artists through virtual interactions. The website is developed in partnership with Multilateral Asia Fora and is funded by the European Union.

Social Media





www.ASEF.org

31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595 T+65 6874 9700 | E info@asef.org

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