



MOET
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING OF VIETNAM**

**ASEM MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Sharing Experience and Best Practices on Higher Education

Hanoi, 14 - 15 May, 2009

Conclusions by the Chair

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 needs 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.
4. Further acknowledged that Lifelong Learning (LLL) provides a solid framework for sustainable human resource development, which generates economic growth, social welfare and enables individuals to pursue stimulating learning opportunities at all stages of their lives. Therefore, it deserves specific attention for intensified cooperation among the ASEM countries.
5. Recognized the role of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the general development of education, and encouraged ASEM members to share their e-learning resources to maximize the use of ICT in capacity building, learning and teaching, and welcomed India's contributions in this field.
6. Encouraged ASEM members to upload the list of accredited educational institutions and programmes on the existing UNESCO portal to facilitate mobility of students, teachers and researchers.
7. Recognized UNESCO/OECD guidelines on quality provision in cross-border higher education as a basis for quality assurance, credit recognition and transfer in ASEM countries.
8. Recognized that solutions to the global economic crisis are no longer local or national, and that the whole spectrum of lifelong learning, education and training is not only a short-term recovery instrument, but a long-term economic and social response to the crisis.
9. Welcomed the call from the European Higher Education Ministers in their Communiqué of the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve conference 28-29 April 2009 for enhancing policy dialogue through the organization of the Bologna Policy Fora. The meeting applauded European University Association (EUA) for initiating a Round Table on 'The Bologna Process and Europe-Asia Dialogue' in Brussels¹.
10. Emphasized the importance of ensuring that all initiatives taken are based on collective consultation and reflect the interests of all parties involved in order to make the ASEM Education Process a truly bi-regional initiative.
11. Considered relevant outcomes of the ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting in Bali in October 2008, where similar topics and certain actions in the field of VET and Labour Migration were proposed.

¹ "Part of the EU-Asia Higher Education Platform – a European Union's initiative implemented by EUA, DAAD and Nuffic"

The Meeting agreed:

A. Quality assurance, credit recognition and transfer in ASEM:

(A1) - To adopt the suggestion from the Second ASEM Education Ministerial meeting on starting an ASEM dialogue by forming three pilot groups of experts on credits and learning outcomes, quality assurance and qualification frameworks, while respecting the diversity of higher education systems and institutions in Asia and Europe. The Meeting applauded Germany for volunteering to coordinate a pilot group of Asian and European experts on credits and learning outcomes, and Austria for volunteering to take an active part in working with pilot group of experts on mutual recognition of higher education qualifications among the ASEM countries.

(A2) - To provide more support to trans-national initiatives and activities that aim to enhance the attractiveness, accessibility, profile, image and visibility of, and accessibility to Asian and European Higher Education in the world, and to welcome the proposal from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a project on promoting joint programmes and mobility between ASEM countries.

(A3) - To organize meetings for relevant Quality Assurance Agencies in Asia and Europe to exchange experience and good practices with the focus on quality assurance and accreditation of joint programmes, and the development of standards and guidelines in this field. The Meeting welcomed offers from France and Korea to organize two inter-regional workshops in France and Korea on Quality Assurance among quality assurance and accreditation agencies. The Meeting also welcomed the offer from the EUA, the AUN and the Commission on Higher Education of Thailand to organize a workshop on Regional Approaches to Quality Assurance in Bangkok, Thailand as part of the EU-Asia Higher Education Platform (EAHEP). Universities, governments, quality assurance agencies (including the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)), and other interested partners from ASEM countries are invited to attend. The meeting also welcomed Cyprus' offer to host a conference on quality assurance in 2010, as a continuation and expansion of the workshops in Korea and France.

B. Sustainable human resource development for ASEM's future needs:

(B1) - To strengthen the role of ASEM LLL Hub in order to deepen common understanding of LLL concepts, to make research and research-based policy recommendations in the fields concerned, and to expand the existing ASEM LLL cooperation to all ASEM countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting welcomed Vietnam's offer to host a workshop in October 2009 in Nha Trang, Vietnam on lifelong learning and sustainable human resource development in cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Education, the ASEM LLL Hub and the EUA. The Meeting also welcomed Thailand's offer to host a conference

on lifelong learning: workplace learning and e-learning, in cooperation with the ASEM LLL Hub, in July 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand.

(B2) - To endorse the detailed proposal and budget for the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning and invited the ASEM countries and organisations to make this possible by voluntary contributions over the three year period of 2010-2012.

(B3) - To set up the ASEM University-Business-Forum, as agreed in the First Ministerial Meeting in Berlin, to enhance exchange of views and good practices, and welcomed Thailand for volunteering to organise this activity.

(B4) - To increase the exchange of information on skills forecast among ASEM countries by maximising inter-linked existing networks of member countries, and to encourage ASEM countries to explore EU's new initiative on new skills for new jobs, which aim at mapping out the skills of the future to better anticipate and match the needs of the labour market.

(B5) - To link the existing the European Network for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (ENQA-VET) with initiatives in Asian countries in order to exchange experience and practices on the implementation of QA in VET. To facilitate this exchange, a voluntary group of Asian countries, with the help of the ASEM Education Secretariat, shall take the lead in exploring the European Network. The Meeting welcomed China's offer to organize a workshop, supported by Germany, on attractiveness, employability in VET in China.

(B6) - To further increase the visibility of the education systems and institutions of both regions by organizing joint ASEM higher education meetings, conferences, fairs and joint marketing and information activities. The Meeting welcomed suggestions for the establishment of an EU-Asia portal providing information on jobs and learning opportunities in ASEM.

(B7) - To make the Asia-Europe Rectors' Conference a biennial event and encouraged balanced participation of universities from both regions.

C. The Establishment of the ASEM Education Secretariat

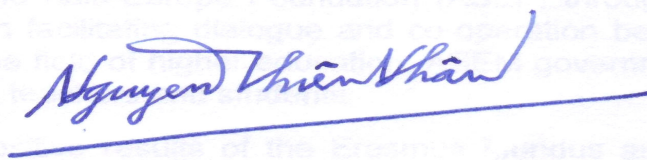
(C1) -To establish a rotating ASEM Education Secretariat to ensure effective coordination and sustainable progress of the ASEM process. The ASEM Education Secretariat will coordinate ASEM educational activities, help with preparations for ASEM ministerial meetings, and facilitate the implementation of output-orientated initiatives that contribute to educational policy development and practices. The Meeting welcomed Germany's offer to host the ASEM Education Secretariat for the first four-year cycle and invited ASEM member countries to join and send in staff. The Meeting also acknowledged China's, Indonesia's and Vietnam's confirmation on personnel contributions to the Secretariat.

(C2) - Vietnam will implement the tasks of the Standing Committee for the Second ASEM Ministerial Meeting Responsible for Higher Education until the ASEM Education Secretariat is established. All information related to the ASEM Educational Meeting and its activities should be directed to Mr. Tran Ba Viet Dung, General Director of the International Co-operation Department, MOET, Vietnam - 49 Dai Co Viet street, Hanoi; Tel: 00-84-4 38684835; Fax: 00-84-4-38693243; Email: tbvdung@moet.edu.vn or hkdiep@moet.gov.vn

The Meeting welcomed

Denmark's offer to host the third ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting and encouraged all ASEM members to contribute to the preparation of this event.

**CHAIR
OF THE SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**



Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thien Nhan
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Education and Training, Viet Nam