

The 6th ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-Innovation Competence

- 11-12 September 2018, Luxembourg, Luxembourg- **(Concept Paper)**

The ASEM Working Group Seminar is co-organized by LUXINNOVATION with the Ministry of Economy of Luxembourg and the ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC) with the Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) of the Republic of Korea. The Seminar and the Working Group (WG) is open to ***all ASEM member states***.

Background

Efforts towards sustainable development are gaining momentum throughout the global community. Likewise, the member states of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) have been focusing on the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in achieving sustainable development.

Through eco-innovation, which is innovation for both economy and ecology, we can reduce the negative impact on the environment, preserve natural resources, save energy and expenses, generate more sustainable business models, create jobs and increase income. We can also enhance organization and institutional changes that can promote all of these developments.

ASEM leaders acknowledged the importance of eco-innovation at the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in 2014 and endorsed the 'ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs Eco-innovation Competence.' The Working Group serves as a platform for policy dialogue, experience sharing, and international cooperation to raise awareness of eco-innovation for sustainable development among SMEs in Asia and Europe.

In 2015, the first ASEM Working Group Seminar on SMEs eco-innovation competence took place in Seoul, South Korea. Delegates from Asia and Europe shared their practices and support programs for sustainable development of SMEs regarding eco-innovation and discussed collaboration opportunities for ASEM member states to achieve the common goal for enhancing eco-innovation competitiveness of SMEs in Asia and Europe. Subsequently, four seminars were held in Slovakia, Korea, and Denmark, all of which served as a platform for developing seven collaborative working projects under three topics as follows.

- **Eco-innovation capacity building for governments:** Foresight for Eco-Innovation, International Program on ETV (Environmental Technology Verification) and Deals for ASIA and Europe.
- **Developing training on eco-innovation for SMEs:** Open Education Resource.
- **Eco-innovation advisory services for SMEs:** B2B, IT Platform and Consulting Services.

The WG proposed its outcome of discussions from the Seminars entitled "**Asia-Europe SMEs EcoInnovation Open Platform**" (refer to Appendix 1) at the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and it was successfully endorsed as a new initiative of ASEM, which was represented at the meeting by 17 member states including Belgium, Cambodia, Czech, Croatia, Denmark, Hungary, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Netherland, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The members of the WG have cooperated on rolling out seven pilot projects in 2017-2018, and the upcoming 6th working group seminar will be the place for the review of current projects and the development of the plan in 2019-2020.

Objectives

The Seminar may focus on reviewing pilots of the Open Platform and discussing on new collaboration of the 2019-20 ASEM activities. Countries that are interested in any of the seven projects or willing to suggest a collaboration project in the ASEM context are welcomed to participate in the Seminar.

Expected Outcome

The 6th Working Group Seminar will be a step forward to implement our collaboration idea at the ASEM level. We expect the outcomes from this Seminar as the following:

- Formulation of a draft plan for the collaboration projects and ideas for 2019-20
- Devising a draft report on on-going projects in 2017-2018

The 12th ASEM Summit Meeting will be held in Brussel, Belgium on 21-22 September 2018. Taking this opportunity to address a large number of ASEM member states, we plan to share the WG discussions and practices and call for member countries' more active participation. The Luxembourg meeting will be a roundtable for forerunners of ASEM collaboration for SME eco-innovation.

Expected Participants

- Participating countries (delegates) to the previous Working Group Seminars
- New member countries willing to participate in the collaboration ideas and projects

Ideally, we expect two delegates, one government official, and one expert, from each country. As for member states with only one delegate, she/he should be a representative of an organization which can officially implement ASEM activities or someone recommended by a government body.

Participants Activities

- Participants are requested to prepare presentations on relevant eco-innovation programs or policies in their countries on the first day of the Seminar.
- If any country delegate wishes to suggest a new collaboration idea, then feel free to propose it on the first day.

Sponsorship

ASEIC will provide support to one delegate from an ASEM member country, which is willing to participate in current or future collaboration ideas, with a round-trip flight ticket and accommodation. Flight tickets and room charges for any additional delegates should be borne by themselves.

Contact

Contact: Ms. Rebecca Sunmi Koo, Manager, ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center

Email: sm.koo@aseic.org, Tel: +82 -31- 628-9667

Address: 2F, PangyoInnoValley, 255, Pangyo-ro, Bundang-gu, Seonnam-si, Gyeonggi-do, 463-400 Korea