I. Executive Summary 6
II. Introduction 8
III. Methodology 9
IV. Synthesis and Qualitative Assessment of ASEM Events and Outcome Documents 10
   Track 1 Inter-governmental
   Track 1.5 Governments, academia, business and other stakeholders
   Track 2 Academia, youth, artists, journalists, parliamentarians and issue-based specialists
V. SWOT Analysis 13
VI. Recommendations and Follow-Up Action for the APGC 14
VII. The Way Forward 17
VIII. Infographics 18
   ASEM’s Role in Connectivity – Key Highlights
   ASEM’s Role in Connectivity – Additional Facts
Annex I 21
   ASEM Connectivity Organigram: a mechanism to further Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the field of connectivity (TACC)
Annex II 22
   ASEM Connectivity Inventory Database
The need for strengthened connectivity between Asia and Europe has been recognised by the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) since the 10th ASEM Summit in 2014 in Italy. The 11th ASEM Summit in 2016 in Ulaanbaatar agreed to make ASEM responsive to emerging demands for connectivity within a framework of economic prosperity, institutional linkages, and social-cultural exchange and cooperation. To this end, it established the ASEM Pathfinders Group on Connectivity (APGC).

In view of the unique institutional nature of ASEM and the diversity within the ASEM framework, the ASEM Connectivity Inventory consolidates the lessons learned in the field of connectivity from ASEM activities held between October 2014 and July 2018. As such, it supports the APGC to further develop the direction of and framework for policy processes of ASEM’s connectivity activities.

Two key conclusions emerge from the inventory of ASEM activities. First, a considerable number of ASEM activities touch upon one or more of the three connectivity pillars, but their relevance and contribution to advancing physical, institutional or people-to-people connectivity in member countries are not fully evident. The uneven distribution of events over time and topics, along with inadequate follow-up, and indeterminate implementation of outcomes are not uncommon in activities under the three pillars of ASEM.

Second, the formal structures of ASEM – such as Ministers’ meetings and Summits – are rather results-oriented. These structures constitute ASEM’s strength as they typically provide clear guidance and direction. The APGC can benefit from guidance by Ministerial and SOM meetings on transport, economy, and finance – the hard aspects of ASEM connectivity – as these bodies have welcomed the APGC’s formation and expressed the expectation that their work will be linked with that of the APGC.

Based on these findings, this ASEM Connectivity Inventory recommends the following:

- To identify focus areas of ASEM connectivity, building on the crucial step that was taken with the intended adoption of 5 focus areas for ‘Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the Field of Connectivity’ (TACC).
- To consider a greater role for the APGC (and the SOM) to better manage the diversity and uneven outcomes of ASEM connectivity activities through a careful selection of topics, better coordination among stakeholders, wider participation (of youth and women in particular), and above all a more unified way of presenting findings and outcome documents to provide a shared sense of direction and follow-up.
- To better address the gap between present-day ASEM connectivity activities and future or longer-term connectivity needs. The APGC could facilitate this makeover.
- To enhance the performance of ASEM’s informal meetings– Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues – with the clear focus and direction of its formal structures.
- In moving forward and to seek value addition for ASEM connectivity activities, the APGC could establish linkages with other multilateral bodies, global compacts and non-ASEM programmes of Asia–Europe cooperation in the field of connectivity.
- To further revamp the information gathering and sharing functions of ASEM Infoboard with a view to streamlining ASEM data sharing and communication.

To rationalise, coordinate and disseminate connectivity-related activities in ASEM is the way forward for the APGC and will make ASEM more responsive and relevant to the peoples of Asia and Europe.
II. Introduction

The Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a collective effort to foster greater connectivity among the geographies, economies and peoples of Asia and Europe. At the 10th ASEM Summit in 2014 in Italy, ‘Leaders underscored the significance of connectivity between the two regions to economic prosperity and sustainable development’. The 11th ASEM Summit in 2016 in Ulaanbaatar agreed to make ASEM responsive to emerging demands and the need for connectivity, and to this end established the ASEM Pathfinders Group on Connectivity (APGC). The APGC was tasked with providing a commonly agreed definition of connectivity; a list of activities that meet this definition; undertaking specific connectivity activities; providing key elements for an ASEM connectivity plan of action; and a realistic assessment of ASEM’s value proposition regarding connectivity.

ASEM Connectivity was defined at the APGC meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in 2017. It was established that:

Connectivity is about bringing countries, people and societies closer together. It facilitates access and is a means to foster deeper economic and people-to-people ties. It encompasses the hard and soft aspects, including the physical and institutional social-cultural linkages that are the fundamental supportive means to enhance the economic, political-security, and socio-cultural ties between Asia and Europe, which also contribute to the narrowing of the varying levels of development and capacities.

As stipulated in the APGC Terms of Reference (TOR), once a definition of connectivity is agreed, an inventory of existing ASEM activities that meet ASEM’s definition of connectivity would be prepared. This report presents an inventory of ASEM activities held between the ASEM Milan Summit in October 2014 and July 2018, to support the aforementioned APGC objectives. This inventory and the accompanying qualitative assessment of activities and recommendations to APGC are guided by two important documents: the Asia–Europe Cooperation Framework (ACEF 2000); and the APGC Terms of Reference (TOR).

III. Methodology

The primary source of information for the ASEM Connectivity Inventory is the ASEM Infoboard (www.aseminfoboard.com). The synthesis of outcome documents and qualitative assessment of ASEM activities are complemented by information derived from the Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF) Annual Report.

The ASEM Connectivity Inventory’s qualitative assessment of activities and recommendations to APGC are guided by two important documents: the Asia–Europe Cooperation Framework (ACEF 2000); and the APGC Terms of Reference (TOR).

An ASEM Connectivity Inventory database, sourced from ASEM Infoboard, was prepared for this report. The database includes all ASEM events since the ASEM Milan Summit (2014) up until July 2018. It should be noted that because of the wide divergences in themes and objectives of these activities/events, the authors first examined all activities and subsequently synthesised their outcome documents, follow-ups, and other significant aspects such as contribution to regional and sub-regional policies on connectivity. This helped in assessing the capacity and scope of how ASEM events contribute to ASEM connectivity, and their relevance for the APGC’s definition of connectivity.

Due to the lack of a common framework for organising ASEM activities, the qualitative assessment of activities had to be based on a synthesis of outcome documents, agreed follow-up steps and policy decisions, their actual implementation, monitoring and follow-up events, and obstacles in achieving any or all of these. In certain cases, the qualitative assessment of ASEM activities – including ASEF events – goes beyond the APGC definition of connectivity. This is helpful in making robust recommendations to the APGC for mainstreaming connectivity into ASEM activities and streamlining the mechanisms for ASEM activities.

Based on the synthesis of outcomes and the qualitative assessment of activities, a SWOT analysis has been conducted for ASEM’s role in the field of connectivity and scope for the APGC in enhancing connectivity between Asia and Europe. The SWOT analysis is also instrumental for identifying the critical gaps that the APGC will have to address in its future activities.

The ASEM Connectivity Inventory Database includes a numerical distribution of activities across ASEM pillars, regions, countries, outputs and focus areas, etc. The number-based information is intended to assist the APGC in streamlining ASEM connectivity activities across the three pillars and is visualised in the Infographics included in this report.
IV. Synthesis and Qualitative Assessment of ASEM Events and Outcome Documents

The ACEF 2000 and the APGC Terms of Reference, accompanied by the APGC definition of ASEM connectivity, are the guiding documents used for the synthesis of outcome documents from ASEM activities. This section examines the outcome documents of all listed activities with a view to establishing their fit in the APGC definition of connectivity. Documents of 140 activities were studied and their outcomes were synthesised. A total of 112 activities were found to fit into the APGC definition of connectivity. For the qualitative assessment of activities, outcome documents were analysed to identify agreed follow-up steps and policy-related decisions, including their actual implementation, and follow-up events.

Additionally, any evidence of impact by these outcome documents on (sub-)regional and national policy-making processes pertaining to Asia–Europe connectivity has been taken into account. The critical gaps and uneven choice of focus areas have also been considered for this assessment and are reflected in the recommendations to the APGC.

The qualitative assessment of ASEM’s role in the field of connectivity makes use of the key principles outlined in ASEM’s connectivity definition. Based on types of stakeholders and participation, all ASEM activities are categorised under Track 1, Track 1.5, and Track 2.

**Track 1 – Inter-governmental**

The more formalized structures of ASEM activity produce more focused results and are therefore highly relevant to ASEM connectivity. ASEM Summit Statements carry clear observations and desirable directions for ASEM. The outcomes of ASEM ministerial meetings contain mostly clear guidance, directions and action points.

The ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) may mandate the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) for more precision in agenda development, event planning, coordination of activities, monitoring of results, linking results into ASEM pillars and, where possible, into global programmes of similar topics.

Only a few topics, such as transport, education, culture, finance and labour, have established ministerial-level meetings and SOM processes.

Available outcome documents of ASEM activities (forums and symposiums, etc.) do not establish whether these outcomes are used in SOMs reporting to ministers.

Likewise, ministerial meetings’ outcomes do not reflect whether relevant activities were reported/brought to ministerial meetings/SOMs, and therefore whether they were integrated into the ASEM processes and results.

Ideally, line ministry SOMs should have an overview of all ASEM activities conducted under its subject matter.

Some Track 1 ministerial meetings (Education and Transport) have specific and result-oriented guidance for connectivity.

The education sector is most active in the social and cultural pillar.

Activities of educational and cultural connectivity have diverse centres for planning, coordination and participation.

**Track 1.5 – Governments plus academia, business and other stakeholders**

Activities under this category include ASEM forums, symposiums, roundtables on varying subjects of interest and applications.

The subjects dealt with include – with infrequent consistency and timing – nuclear energy safety, SME financing, immigration, countering radicalisation, equal opportunities for women, sustainable development, disability and ageing, tourism, disaster rescue and relief, green shipping, technical and vocational education training, pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and food security, etc.

Documents on the Infoboard do not detail the monitoring of education-related activities, their results and outcomes. With different administrative structures for education activities, ASEM needs to give special attention to this aspect. The diversity aspects of this activity are reported in the recommendations to the APGC.

From the information available on the Infoboard, it could not be determined whether the ASEM Education Secretariat reports its activities to the ASEM Track 1.

Common standards for the output and feedback of output into connectivity-related policies and frameworks among member countries are important to enhance Asia–Europe connectivity and to address future concerns of ASEM.

Ministerial and SOM meetings on transport, the economy and finance – the hard aspects of ASEM connectivity – have welcomed the APGC’s formation and expect their work to be linked with that of the APGC.

**Track 2**

The more informal structures of ASEM activities produce less focused results and are therefore less relevant to ASEM connectivity. ASEM Summit Statements carry clear observations and desirable directions for ASEM. The outcomes of ASEM ministerial meetings contain mostly clear guidance, directions and action points.

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Additionally, any evidence of impact by these outcome documents on (sub-)regional and national policy-making processes pertaining to Asia–Europe connectivity has been taken into account. The critical gaps and uneven choice of focus areas have also been considered for this assessment and are reflected in the recommendations to the APGC.

The qualitative assessment of ASEM’s role in the field of connectivity makes use of the key principles outlined in ASEM’s connectivity definition. Based on types of stakeholders and participation, all ASEM activities are categorised under Track 1, Track 1.5, and Track 2.


2. For example, education ministers’ guidance to the ASEM education secretariat, transport ministers’ guidance for the Asia–Eurasia Expert Group Meeting (AEEG), and the feasibility study by ASEM think tanks for a synergic approach to regional transport plans, etc.

3. Reporting and monitoring of the past workings of the ASEM Education Secretariat (when it was held by Indonesia) are not reflected in the ministerial meeting documents. They are also not available through links. The ASEM Education Secretariat moved to Belgium in 2017 for the next five years. The ASEM-Duo programme for student exchange between Asia and Europe has its secretariat in South Korea. This is, however, a Korean initiative under the ASEM brand and not a formal ASEM programme. The hybrid nature of this programme is an important guidance for future connectivity frameworks of the APGC.

4. This event’s output went to the East Asia Summit (EAS), not to ASEM.
The organization and outcomes of an activity are dependent on the host country’s interest, level of coordination, reach, and its ability to follow up on the activity’s results.

Lists of participants, speakers, their diversity and affiliation are not reported uniformly in the documents posted on the Infoboard.

The quality of information and quantity of documents vary greatly. A final report is available on the Infoboard for only one-fifth of events.

Programmes and agendas are the most common available documents.

The above points suggest that ASEM’s capacity to draw concrete action points from its activities is very limited.

Track 1.5 activities should be reviewed, focus areas created, coordination mechanisms put in place, and reporting processes standardised.

The planning and setting up of activities under relevant themes, and ensuring adequate follow-up, should be strong concerns of the APGC and SOM.

ASEM has robust horizontal linkages between the three ASEM pillars; and strong vertical linkages between the different tracks (government, academia and civil society) of ASEM connectivity. ASEM and the APGC can use this strength to create a clear framework for ASEM activities that will ensure coordination among coordinating countries, the host country and organisations, and can facilitate a steady flow of activities that produce tangible thematic results.

The Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF) attends many Track 1.5 ASEM events and meetings, but its role in organising these activities is not clear, either from event/meeting-related documents, or from the ASEF Annual Report.

Track 2 – Academia youth, artists, journalists, parliamentarians and issue-based specialists

ASEM’s Track 2 activities are more intermittent than Track 1.5, and usually involve only a limited number of people. They include problem- or issue-oriented conferences, seminars, workshops and lecture-type events.

ASEF is instrumental in organising Track 2 activities.

The Asia–Europe Young Leaders Summit (ASYLS) stands out as an annual and regular Track 2 activity.

ASEF organised journalists’ and editors’ forums are other examples of Track 2 activities.

ASEM Summit Statements recognise Track 2 activities as contributions to ministerial meetings and ASEM processes.

The ASEF Annual Report to the ASEM Summit lists the Track 2 activities conducted in a reporting year. The 2017 Annual Report covered culture, education, governance, sustainable development and public health.

The sustainability of these activities’ outcomes and their potential for upscaling are not always mentioned.

ASEM’s economic and political pillars are not adequately addressed in ASEM Track 2 activities.

ASEF activities and their outcomes are not listed on the ASEM Infoboard. They can be accessed through ASEF’s website and are listed in ASEF’s Annual Report. Guidance or policy direction for ASEM from these activities is not found prominently in the report.

V. SWOT Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEM is widely recognised as a platform for Europe Asia connectivity</td>
<td>ASEM activities are not consistently and completely updated on the ASEM Infoboard; hampering the monitoring of results, outcomes of activities and public awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formalised structures of ASEM activity produce focused results relevant to ASEM connectivity</td>
<td>Stand-alone activities dilute the focus, impact and sustainability of connectivity efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEM has robust linkages among the three pillars of ASEM activities and between ASEM pillars and different tracks (government, academia, civil society)</td>
<td>Fewer activities exist on several topics that are crucial for the future of ASEM connectivity – including energy, the digital economy, financial management and cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEM has a wide geographic stretch and its programmes reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific</td>
<td>ASEM’s capacity to draw concrete action points from Track 1.5 activities (ASEM forums) is limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ASEM is informal and flexible so that, in principle, it can easily address new aspects or challenges related to connectivity.</td>
<td>It is not possible to assess the access to or participation of citizens in ASEM connectivity activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The time is right: governments across the globe recognise connectivity’s growing importance</td>
<td>Normative and political differences in approaches to connectivity in theory and practice may add to friction between ASEM partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political momentum: Ministerial and SOM meetings for transport, economy and finance welcome APGC formation and expect to link their work to the APGC’s work</td>
<td>ASEM 2000 principles of mutual interest and mutual benefit may be undermined, as activities do not benefit all members. Sub-regional activities should respond to real needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More financing opportunities are made available by individual governments, regional and multilateral institutions</td>
<td>Financing of connectivity plans and growing debts may undermine longer-term connectivity planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs give new impetus to interlink and connect activities across the three ASEM pillars</td>
<td>Some ASEM partners lack administrative capacity to turn the results of ASEM activities into policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationalisation of connectivity-related activities can enhance Asia–Europe connectivity</td>
<td>Lessons learned from multilateral development banks and institutions may be synthesised for practical use in the Asia–Europe connectivity context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media outreach may enhance visibility and awareness and strengthen people-to-people connectivity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VI. Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions for the APGC

The APGC has a unique role in steering ASEM’s activities closer to the definition and key principles of ASEM connectivity. Its role in advising the SOM on how to mainstream connectivity into ASEM activities and how to streamline mechanisms can be further strengthened by identifying flagship activities in each ASEM pillar; deepening institutional support for these activities; streamlining the outcome processes and ensuring their effectiveness; coordinating the strategy and role allocation; eliminating rudimentary activities; creating interlinkages with the works of multilateral bodies in Asia and Europe; and ensuring diversity and accountability in the programmes.

Based on the findings of this Inventory, it is recommended to identify focus areas of ASEM connectivity and put in place a streamlined mechanism to enhance ASEM connectivity.

An important step towards this end was taken with the intended adoption of the 5 focus areas for ‘Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the Field of Connectivity’ (TACC), identified at the June 2018 meeting of the APGC and SOM.

Taking this forward, the work plan should be monitored by the SOM and the APGC, and reported to the ministerial meetings of Transport, Education, Economy, Finance, Culture and Tourism. Streamlined documentation, organisation and reporting of TACC activities are crucial for ASEM connectivity.

Finally, a revamped ASEM Infoboard has a crucial role to play in disseminating ASEM connectivity activities.

Defining connectivity and adding focus
- ASEM should focus on making ASEM connectivity relevant and useful for governments and people. The ACEF 2000 lays down the wider principles of ASEM and the APGC has defined connectivity for the ASEM.
- ASEM connectivity activities must be able to contribute to policy processes in member countries.
- The APGC has a role to play in ensuring that activities fit into the definition of connectivity and produce substantive results or add value to the key principles of connectivity.
- Focus areas for ASEM connectivity activities should address practicality, cost-effectiveness, and contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inclusive growth.

Special tasks from ministerial meetings
- Transport ministers, economic ministers, and education ministers have spelled out specific tasks for the APGC to interconnect the three ASEM pillars. These tasks must be integrated into the focus areas of ASEM connectivity. Some of the important ministerial recommendations under the economic and financial pillar – such as the Trade Facilitation Agreement Plan (TFAP), ASEM Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP), ASEM Eurasia Expert Group (AEEG) and ASEM think tanks’ work on feasibility studies of synergy in transport plans – need to be addressed.
- An inventory of the formal ASEM-mechanisms – such as the Education Secretariats (hosted by Indonesia and Belgium), the ASEM Infoboard (managed by ASEF), and the Steering Committee of the Informal Human Rights Seminar – can be carried out with a view to analysing their effectiveness, strengthening their accountability, and utilising the outcomes of their activities in the 5 focus areas for TACC.

Diversity of themes and uneven outcomes
- The diversity in and uneven outcomes of ASEM connectivity activities should be managed through a careful selection of themes, better coordination among countries, a shared sense of direction, and follow-up and monitoring of results.
- Physical connectivity activities – including energy, the digital economy, financial management and cooperation – are relatively few in number, especially in Europe. To the extent that this showcases a gap between the real needs of people and ASEM activities, this point should be addressed as a matter of priority.
Diversity in participation

- ASEM activities in the social and cultural pillar require a greater diversity of participants and outreach to larger groups of stakeholders and participants.
- Participants in education exchange programmes, summer universities and youth leadership summits, etc., appear to be selected from a limited pool of citizens and are not widely known across Asia. Provision of details on participants to Infoboard should be made mandatory to ascertain the true reach and diversity of activities among the people. Similarly, transparency in the selection of institutions, teachers and students through a wider dissemination of programmes is very important.
- The data show that ASEM activities create interlinkages, but mostly among people who are already informed on ASEM activities. ASEM activities must ensure a regional spread in Western and Southern Europe, Southwest Asia and Oceania, which are underrepresented in ASEM activities.

Multilateral organisations and ASEM

- ASEM connectivity will be strengthened by importing the lessons of multilateral organisations – like the IMF, World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Central Bank and the ASEAN+3 Multilateral Research Organisation (AMRO) – into its activities, without having to reinvent the wheel. These organisations have best practices and the (technical) know-how to contribute to ASEM’s economic and political objectives, as well as to sustainable development, financial management and cooperation activities.
- Conversely, ASEM can share its lessons with other multilateral organisations, including with newer institutions such as the AIIB and NDB. ASEM can also provide meaningful inputs to the G20 Sherpa process.

Other global compacts and ASEM

- ASEM should have a voice in other global compacts, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Almaoty Programme of Action, etc. The ASEM 12 theme of “Global Partners for Global Challenges” justifies this outreach to global programmes.

Nurturing non-ASEM mechanisms of Asia–Europe connectivity

- The Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) and the EU-ARISE programme in ASEAN are fine examples of Asia–Europe connectivity, whose results should feed into the ASEM concept of connectivity. The APGC can draw inputs from such connectivity programmes between Asia and Europe and seek value addition for ASEM connectivity activities.

VII. The Way Forward

In June 2018 the APGC and SOM agreed to work towards 5 focus areas for ‘Tangible Areas of Cooperation in the Field of Connectivity’ (TACC) to bring necessary focus and spur interest among ASEM members’ activities for enhanced cooperation in the field of connectivity.

Focus areas
- Sustainable connectivity
- Future connectivity
- Trade and investment connectivity
- People-to-people connectivity
- Security challenges linked to connectivity

Building on the recommendations in part 5 of this report and with a view to realising the APGC and SOM’s tasks in focus areas for TACC, an ASEM Connectivity Organigram has been developed to rationalise, coordinate and disseminate connectivity-related activities in ASEM. This ASEM Connectivity Organigram outlines the linkages between the various ASEM processes (Summits, Ministerial meetings and SOMs) with the co-chairs of the APGC as well as with host countries/host organisations and other multilateral institutions. It also suggests how connectivity-related activities and their outcomes may be monitored and synchronized, and in turn fed into ASEM ministerial meetings and summit mechanisms. To keep ASEM connectivity activities relevant and in tune with policy needs of member countries, the TACC mechanism proposes regular monitoring and updating of activities by the co-chairs of APGC to the SOM and other relevant ASEM processes. If ASEM partners so decide, a TACC ‘coordination unit’ could support the APGC co-chairs’ activities, analogous to the ASEM Education Secretariat.

ASEM plays a crucial role in advancing connectivity in the Asia-Europe region, and with the global community outside ASEM. Therefore, this Inventory also recommends that ASEM exchanges best practices and outcomes from the relevant focus areas of the TACC with other global and regional programmes that have substantial influence on ASEM members. All sides stand to benefit also from greater alignment between ASEM activities and established non-ASEM connectivity programmes between Asia and Europe such as TIEN and EU-ARISE. A streamlined and more focused effort on working for tangible areas of connectivity cooperation is the best way forward for the APGC, SOM, and ASEM overall.
Advancing connectivity in ASEM

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it brings together 51 countries from Europe and Asia, plus the EU and the ASEAN Secretariat. Since the 10th ASEM Summit in October 2014, ASEM set out to enhance Europe-Asia connectivity to further economic prosperity and sustainable development. ASEM connectivity is about physical infrastructure, institutional linkages and people-to-people ties. It covers all the three pillars of ASEM: economic, political and sociocultural.

Main Topics number of activities

- Trade and Economic cooperation: 33 activities
- Education and Research: 27 activities
- Sustainable development: 23 activities
- Culture and Tourism: 9 activities
- Transport: 10 activities
- Human Rights and Development: 8 activities
- ICT/Digital/Technology: 8 activities

Connectivity on the agenda

139 activities covered one or more connectivity pillars

- Physical: 44 activities
- Institutional: 39 activities
- People to people: 28 activities

Output

37 activities resulted in one or more outcome documents

- Press releases: 9
- Final reports: 5
- Joint initiatives: 17
- Action plan: 1
- Declarations: 1

When was connectivity discussed?

48 activities out of a total of 139 activities – excluding ASEM Day celebrations

ASEM Pillars & Activities

124 out of 139 activities covered one or more pillar.

- Economic: 70 activities
- Social: 57 activities
- Cultural: 27 activities

What ASEM discusses

Trade & Economics
ASEM Pillars & Activities

ASEM Summit Follow up and Preparations

Education and Research

Disaster Management

Security

Human Rights

Technology

Migration

ASEM Days

ASEM Activity

ASEM Forum

DG-Officials' Meeting

Senior Officials' Meeting

Ministerial Meeting

Summits

Number and type of event per region

- ASEM Days: 25 Europe, 11 Asia
- ASEM Activity: 23 Europe, 64 Asia
- ASEM Forum: 3
- DG-Officials' Meeting: 4, 6
- Senior Officials’ Meeting: 13 Europe, 12 Asia
- Ministerial Meeting: 7, 6
- Summits: 1

When did activities take place?

Total of 176 activities

- ASEM Day 2017
- ASEM Day 2018

* Data presented here draw on the ASEM Connectivity Inventory built by the Clingendael Institute and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), making use of publicly available data on ASEM Infoboard (June 2018).

The country where an event is held (host country) and the organising country are not necessarily the same in some exceptional cases; events are co-organised or co-sponsored by a second country. This report counts events according to their location, not according to the organising country. Hence, co-organising or co-sponsoring countries are not reflected in the numbers, infographics (p. 18 & 19), map (p. 20), database (Annex II) and lists of ASEM Days (p. 48 & 49) of this report.
25 ASEM Days
48 activities

11 ASEM Days
92 activities
**Annex II**

ASEM Connectivity Inventory Database

**2018-06-28/29**

**Austria**

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM1) for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) & 4th Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC4)

**Type of event:** Senior Officials’ Meeting

**Topic:** Connectivity

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Political

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM1) for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) & 4th Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC4) was held successfully on 28-29 June in Vienna, Austria. The meeting set a good foundation for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) in October in Brussels.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5994/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asm-som1-for-the-12th-asem-summit-asm12-4th-meeting-of-the-asm-pathfinder-group-on-connectivity-apgc4

**2018/06/29**

South Korea

Opening Ceremony and International Seminar of ASEM Global Ageing Center

**Type of event:** ASEM activity

**Topic:** Human Rights and Development

**Documents:** Practical information

**Connectivity Pillars:** People-to-people

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

The ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC), which is an international specialized institution established with ASEM approval at its 11th Summit in July 2016, aims to promote and protect the human rights of older persons, and strengthen cooperation with ASEM partners and domestic organizations on the human rights of older persons.

The opening ceremony of the AGAC, which was jointly organized by the AGAC, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRC) and Seoul Metropolitan Government, was held on 29 June with the participation of around 150 participants, including Chairperson of the NHRC, Mayor of Seoul City, member of the National Assembly, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassadors and Deputy Heads of Mission of ASEM partners’ Embassies in Korea.


**2018-06-19/20**

**Vietnam**

ASEM Conference on Climate Action to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – Ways Forward

**Type of event:** ASEM activity

**Topic:** Sustainable Development

**Documents:** Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Political

In particular, this event is designed to provide a platform for ASEM members to exchange policy and best practices of transforming commitments into climate actions to effectively implement the Paris Agreement and SDGs at global, regional and local levels. Furthermore, the Conference would also highlight international cooperation in tackling issues of climate change and promote effective ASEM cooperation on this matter in the time to come.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5987/asem-conference-on-climate-action-to-achieving-the-sustainable-development-goals-ways-forward

**2018-06-11 / 2018-09-28**

Thailand

2019 ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (DUO-Thailand) – Call for Applications

**Type of event:** ASEM activity

**Topic:** Education and Research

**Documents:** Practical information

**Connectivity Pillars:** People-to-people

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

DUO-Thailand program has been established since 2006 and 328 awardees have been supported over the past 12 years. DUO-Thailand Program is sponsored by the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Ministry of Education, Thailand with an aim to enhance a mobility of students between Thailand and ASEM member states in Europe on a balanced basis.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6055/2019-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-duo-thailand-call-for-applications

**2018-06-03/05**

Indonesia

3rd ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM ISOM3) on “Strengthening Regional Collaboration to Cope with the 4.0 Industrial Revolution and the Implementation of Society 5.0 for Reaching Sustainable Development Goals”

**Type of event:** Senior Officials’ Meeting

**Topic:** Education and Research

**Documents:** Final Report

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Social Cultural

The ISOM integrates 2 workshops on the first day, in accordance with the new meeting structure as agreed in the Chair’s Conclusions of the ASEM ISOM6 in Seoul. During these workshops, discussions will take place on identified themes with input from experts. The workshops will be co-chaired by an Asian and a European Country. Input for the discussions in the workshops will be provided by experts from the ASEM Education Initiative as well as by external experts. One workshop will be organized under the 2 thematic areas ‘Quality Assurance and Recognition’ and ‘Balanced Mobility’, the other workshop will combine the themes of ‘Engaging Businesses and Industries in Education’ and ‘Lifelong Learning including TVET’.

The ISOM is organized by the ASEM Education Secretariat. The host of the event, the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MoRTH/E) of the Republic of Indonesia invites Senior Officials from Ministries of Education in ASEM Partner Countries to the Intermediate Senior Officials Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.


**2018-05-03/04**

Switzerland

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting Retreat (ASEM SOM-R)

**Type of event:** ASEM activity

**Topic:** Finance

**Documents:** Practical information, Agenda

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic – Financial

The ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting Retreat (ASEM SOM-R) is to mainly have a strategic debate on the ASEM activity 2018/02/28 Bulgaria

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM7) for the 8th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM8) will be held on 28-Feb at Sofia, Bulgaria.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6043/asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asm-cmm8

**2018/04/26**

Bulgaria

13th ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FinMM13)

**Type of event:** Ministerial Meeting

**Topic:** Finance

**Documents:** Practical information, Agenda

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic – Financial

The 13th ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FinMM13) will be held 26 April 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria. More information will be posted once available.


**2018-04-26/27**

Singapore

ASEM Conference “Green Shipping: Blue Business. Moving Forward Together”

**Type of event:** ASEM activity

**Topic:** Transport

**Documents:** Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

**Connectivity Pillars:** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic – Financial

The oceans will be vital for future global growth and prosperity. The OECD has estimated that the blue economy can double its contribution to global value creation by 2030. However, our oceans are under considerable pressure from climate change, acidification, pollution and unsustainable harvesting. Seaborne transport is one of the most energy-efficient forms of transport, but it is also a significant contributor to global emissions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
<th>Topic/Type of Event</th>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-04-25</td>
<td>ASEM Technical and Vocational Education and Training Seminar</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>ASEM activity</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Education and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-03-01/02</td>
<td>ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM)</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>ASEM activity</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ministerial Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-03-28/30</td>
<td>ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Jakarta</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>ASEM activity</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Promoting Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-12-15</td>
<td>2018 ASEM DUO-Belgium/Flanders Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>ASEM activity</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Trade and Economic Cooperation, Education and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-04-02-05</td>
<td>ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme (DUO-Korea) - Call for Applications</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>ASEM activity</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Call for Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-12-05/06</td>
<td>ASEM Forum on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>ASEM Forum</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>ICT / Digital Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-11-21/12</td>
<td>6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6)</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
<td>Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Education and Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASEM Pillars**

- **Economic-Financial**: Supports the development of economic and financial cooperation between Asia and Europe.
- **Socio-Cultural**: Promotes the cultural exchange and understanding between Asia and Europe.
- **Institutional**: Enhances the institutional cooperation between Asia and Europe.

**CONNECTIVITY Pillars**

- **People-to-people**: Focuses on strengthening people-to-people interactions.
- **Trade and Economic Cooperation**: Promotes trade and economic cooperation.
- **Technology Transfer**: Accelerates the exchange of technology and innovations.

**TOPIC/Type of Event**

- **Culture and Tourism**: Discusses the cultural and tourism aspects of cooperation.
- **Trade and Economic Cooperation**: Focuses on economic and trade-related topics.
- **Technology Transfer**: Addresses technology and innovation exchange.

**Documents**

- **Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper**: Provides the agenda and supporting documents.
- **Final Report**: Summarizes the outcomes of the event.
- **Final Report, Final Report**: Further details on the event outcomes.

For more information, visit the ASEMInfoboard website: [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org).
The Symposium on Countering Radicalisation aims to provide a platform to share knowledge, enhance understanding, create an informal ASEM network of experts to provide a platform to share knowledge, enhance understanding, create an informal ASEM network of experts and to increase awareness and highlight the importance of soft approaches in countering radicalisation.

**ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation**

**Date:** 2017-10-25/26

**Location:** Laos

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM Pillars:** Political

The Symposium on Countering Radicalisation aims to provide a platform to share knowledge, enhance understanding, create an informal ASEM network of experts and to increase awareness and highlight the importance of soft approaches in countering radicalisation.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-countering-radicalisation-1

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**ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development**

**Date:** 2017-10-25/26

**Location:** Malaysia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM Pillars:** Political

The Seminar aims to increase the recognition by the international community of the urgency of water resources management incorporated in sustainable development

The event is part of the annual series in the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue (the Danube-Mekong cooperation initiative), launched by Hungary upon consultations with ASEM partners in 2012. Lao PDF is a co-sponsor together with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Viet Nam, and Thailand. Under the motto, “Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development”, the 6th ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development will be held in Pakse District, Champasak Province.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-seminar-water-resources-management-and-sustainable-development

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**ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM MFM13**

**Date:** 2017-10-20/21

**Location:** Myanmar

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Agenda, Chair’s statement, Speeches / Annexes

**Connectivity Pillars:** Physical, Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial, Political, Social-Cultural

The 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM MFM13) will be held on 17-19 November 2017, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Myanmar is the host of ASEM MFM13 on 20-21 November 2017.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/13th-asem-foreign-ministers-meeting-asem-som-4

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**ASEM Seminar on All-Dimensional Support to the Financing of SMEs**

**Date:** 2017-10-26

**Location:** China

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Action plan, Summary / Conclusions

**Connectivity Pillars:** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial

At the seminar, financial inclusion and enhancing bank’s credit capacity for SMEs has been discussed. In addition to this, they aim to encourage Asian and Financial institutions to strengthen cooperation.

The seminar aimed to look into the prominent issues on the financing of SMEs in Asia and Europe, including SMEs’ lack of access to finance, high cost of finance, overwhelming collateral requirements, gaps in obtaining credit information, cumbersome documentation processes, etc. It intended to provide the platform for policy exchanges, best practices sharing and case studies among ASEM members. It is hoped that relevant stakeholders have worked together through this seminar, to identify the priority areas of cooperation and formulate recommendations for future actions.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-all-dimensional-support-financing-smes

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**ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM EMM4**

**Date:** 2017-10-26/28

**Location:** Indonesia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Chair’s statement, Speeches / Annexes

**Connectivity Pillars:** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial

The 4th ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TMM4) was held on 26-28 September 2017 in Bali, Indonesia, under the theme, “Bringing Asia and Europe through Integrated Transport Connectivity and Synchronized Regional Strategic Plans”.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-transport-ministers-meeting-ASEM-tmm4

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**ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM EMM4**

**Date:** 2017-10-26

**Location:** Indonesia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Chair’s statement, Speeches / Annexes

**Connectivity Pillars:** Physical, Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial

The ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TMM4) was held on 26 September 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. ASEM TMM4 took place from 26-28 September 2017 under the theme, “Bringing Europe-Asia through Integrated Transport Connectivity-Synchronizing Regional Strategic Plan Towards Modernized Transport Connectivity and Greener Urban Transport.”

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-tmm4

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**14th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows**

**Date:** 2017-09-28/29

**Location:** Cambodia

**Type of Event:** DG-Officials’ Meeting

**Documents:** Practical information, Agenda

The 14th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows was held from 28-29 September 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The theme of the Conference hosted by the General Department of Immigration of Cambodia was “Immigration Management Strategies”.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/14th-asem-conference-directors-general-immigration-management-migratory-flows

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**7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7)**

**Date:** 2017-09-19/21

**Location:** South Korea

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Chair’s statement, Summary / Conclusions, Press release

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial

The ministers acknowledged the benefits of trade and investment and resist all forms of protectionism. At the same time, they acknowledge that the recent growing discontent with globalization needs to be addressed properly.

The 7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7) was held on 21-22 September 2017 in Seoul, Korea.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/7th-asem-economic-ministers-meeting-asem-emm7

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**9th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows**

**Date:** 2017-09-12/14

**Location:** Malaysia

**Type of Event:** DG-Officials’ Meeting

**Documents:** Practical information, Declaration

The 9th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration & Management of Migratory Flows was held from 13-14 September 2017, in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/9th-asem-conference-directors-general-immigration-management-migratory-flows

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**2nd ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons**

**Date:** 2017-09-19/21

**Location:** South Korea

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity

**Documents:** Practical information, Chair’s statement, Summary / Conclusions, Press release

**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional

**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial

During the Conference, experts and representatives from international institutions, NGOs, International NGOs, and ASEM members participated to discuss international trend and major activities with regards to human rights of older persons. In addition, implementation status and exemplary cases of the MIPAA, SDGs and human rights of older persons, and measures to enhance international cooperation were discussed.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-conference-global-ageing-human-rights-older-persons
Partners. The 2nd ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability reviewed efforts on Disability on 14-15 September 2017 in Beijing. The cooperation, China hosted the 2nd ASEM High-level Meeting on 19-21 September 2017 in Seoul, Korea. The seminar-smes-eco-innovation-competence cooperative projects and development of new cooperation were generated. The ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre has been discussed in-depth and concrete plans for 2017-2018 were announced.

2017-09-07 Myanmar

2nd Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)

Type of event: Senior Officials’ Meeting

Topic: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations

Connectivity Pillars: Physical, Institutional, People-to-people

ASEM Pillars: Political

The 2nd Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) was held on Wednesday, 6 September 2017, in New Delhi, India. The 1st Meeting was held on 21 June 2017 in Brussels, Belgium, prior to the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FM13).

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/2nd-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc

2017-06-23/25 Belgium

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEM FM13

Type of event: Senior Officials’ Meeting

Topic: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations

Connectivity Pillars: Practical information, Agenda

ASEM Pillars: China

The ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) in preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FM13) was held on 22-23 June 2017, in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting focused on: successful policies and legal instruments; ASEM activity and cooperation among ASEM members; various aspects of ASEM activities; and ASEM activity and cooperation among ASEM members.

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-som-asem-fm13

2017-06-21 Belgium

1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)

Type of event: Senior Officials’ Meeting

Topic: ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations

Connectivity Pillars: Practical information, Agenda

ASEM Pillars: India

The 1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) was held on 21 June 2017, in Brussels, Belgium. At the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) in July 2016, at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, ASEM Leaders agreed that increased focus in ASEM activities on connectivity will contribute to the relevance of ASEM. They also agreed to establish a Pathfinder Group on Connectivity for a term of 2 years.

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/1st-meeting-asem-pathfinder-group-connectivity-apgc

2017-05-26/27 Thailand

ASEM High-level Forum on Digital Connectivity: Unleashing Potential for Innovative Growth

Type of event: ASEM activity

Topic: ICT / Digital Technology

Connectivity Pillars: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Initiative

ASEM Pillars: China

In conclusion, they stated that digital technologies in particular, have spread rapidly, connected and deeply transformed the world to an unprecedented level. By creating new business opportunities and significantly reducing the costs of transactions and transportation, digital connectivity proves to be a key force driving growth, creating jobs and promoting innovation. Digital connectivity has recently emerged as a new area of interest and cooperation among ASEM members.

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/asem-symposium-inter-regional-partnership-sustainable-development

2017-05-25/26 Lithuania

1st ASEM Conference on Women’s Economic Empowerment

Type of event: ASEM activity

Topic: Trade and Economic Cooperation

Documents: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Declaration

ASEM Pillars: Political

The conference focused on successful policies and legal provisions that ASEM partner countries may wish to share with others, institutional mechanisms, including national, regional and local level that ensure equality and reduce gender gaps in political, economic, corporate and public life, women leaders and achievers who empower other women work/live, reconciliation policies and incentives, as well as from related regional and international organizations. The goal was to bring together policymakers and professional practice/expertise.

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/1st-asem-conference-womens-economic-empowerment

2017-05-24/27 Portugal

4th ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4)

Type of event: ASEM activity

Topic: Sustainable Development, Migration

Documents: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Declaration

ASEM Pillars: Political

ASEM Governors and Mayors agreed that political cooperation is of fundamental importance, and cooperation should be reinforced through institutional and technical cooperation at a local level. Exchange of knowledge should continue through international platforms or bilateral exchanges between city members of ASEM-MGM. The 4th ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4) was held from 24-27 May 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal, under the theme, “Mobility, Sustainability and Migration.”

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/4th-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm4

2017-05-24/26 China

ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development

Type of event: ASEM activity

Topic: Sustainable Development

Documents: Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions, Press release

ASEM Pillars: China

The ministers shared their experiences in achieving the SDGs in both national and regional levels. Sustainable strategy and prioritisation, national mechanism to engage with stakeholders, statistic collection as framework for SDG indicators, and the ASEM process toward SDGs were emphasized and elaborated to drive a nation to sustainability.

The ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development held on 25-26 May 2017, in Bangkok, Thailand, has the following objectives: to promote sharing of experiences, best practices and expertise among ASEM Partners, from regard to policy, practices and method for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to provide a platform for networking and forging partnerships among ASEM Partners for future collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs through various approaches.

www.aseminfo bord.org/events/asem-symposium-inter-regional-partnership-sustainable-development
need of clear message to relevant stakeholders on custom role and involvement in ASEM activities all the more that the leading theme of ASEM is connectivity of which custom is the part of by nature.

The National Revenue Administration of Poland hosted the 11th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) on 26-27 April 2017, in Sopot, Poland.

More than 60 representatives of Customs Administrations from ASEM partner countries, the European Union, and the observer, World Customs Organisation met.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-aac-seminar-working-group-customs-matters

2017-04-25 South Korea

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOMTI13)

TYPE OF EVENT DG-Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS Practical information

Participants highlighted that education is a key enabling factor in promoting sustainable and inclusive development, innovation and poverty reduction. The participants underscored the important role of education, particularly higher education, life-long learning and technical vocational education and training (TVET) for human resource development and called for enhanced education and youth labour market outcomes through reforms and investment in human resource development. Participants agreed that more focus should be on building inclusive learning society, equal opportunities for quality learning, especially for the disadvantaged groups, developing employability skills for the 21st century to foster youth employment and entrepreneurship.


2017-04-28 Poland

11th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters

TYPE OF EVENT DG-Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

Participants prepared proposals for future actions, which will be presented for discussion and adoption during the meeting of Customs Directors General in October 2017 in Berlin. In the context of visibility, participants agreed on the

8th ASEM Customs-Trade Day

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS Practical information

The National Revenue Administration of Poland hosted the 8th ASEM Customs Trade Day on 25 April 2017 in Sopot, Poland.

The event focused on the phenomenon of E-Commerce.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/8th-asm-custums-trade-day

2017-04-18 / - 05-24 Sweden

2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Education and Research

DOCUMENTS Practical information, People-to-people

The Programme aims to:

Promote balanced increase of student, teacher and professor contact and exchanges between Europe and Asia

Contribute to setting up regular-basis exchange programmes between European and Asian tertiary institutions

Establish deeper understanding between two regions.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-1

2017-04-10 / 05-16 South Korea

2017 ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme - Call for Applications

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Education and Research

DOCUMENTS Practical information, People-to-people

The Programme aims to:

Promote balanced increase of student, teacher and professor contact and exchanges between Europe and Asia

Contribute to setting up regular-basis exchange programmes between European and Asian tertiary institutions

Establish deeper understanding between two regions.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2017-asem-duo-fellowship-programme-call-applications-2

2017-02-13 Myanmar

ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Culture and Tourism

DOCUMENTS Agenda

Institutional, People-to-person

ASEM Pillars Economic–Financial, Socio–Cultural

The focus on the importance of tourism marketing, such as tourism branding and world heritage promotion, was key to this meeting.

Japan held the ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism on 15 February 2017, at the Embassy of Japan in Yangon, Myanmar.

The event was co-sponsored by the Government of Myanmar, the host country for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMHLM3) in 2017.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-symposium-promoting-tourism-0

2017-02-13 India

11th ASEM TEIN Co-operation Centre Governors’ Meeting

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC ICT / Digital / Technology

DOCUMENTS Agenda, Chair’s statement

Physical, Institutional

ASEM Pillars Economic–Financial

11th ASEM Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) Co-operation Centre Governors’ Meeting.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-tein-cooperation-center-governors-meeting

2017-02-04 India

ASEM Workshop on Diagnostics Technologies

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC ICT / Digital / Technology

DOCUMENTS Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Press release

Physical, Institutional

ASEM Pillars Economic–Financial

In this meeting it was highlighted that the inclusion of healthcare in the ASEM agenda would go a long way in addressing the health related problems in the region where Diabetes and other Non-Communicable Diseases have great potential in hindering the growth pathways of economy in a significant manner.

Technologies for Diagnostics has been identified as one of the 20 areas for tangible cooperation under ASEM. In this context, the Ministry of External Affairs of India, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry, organised the ASEM Workshop on “Non-Invasive Technologies for Diagnostics & Treatment of Diabetes as a Lifestyle Disease” on Saturday, 4 February 2017 in New Delhi.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-workshop-diagnostics-technologies

2016-12-02 South Korea

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOMTI12)

TYPE OF EVENT DG-Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

Physical, Institutional

ASEM Pillars Economic–Financial

2017-02-06/07 India

ASEM Workshop on Techniques & Instruments for Conservation of Monuments & Artefacts

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Culture and Tourism

DOCUMENTS Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Press release

Physical, Institutional

ASEM Pillars Socio-Cultural

The two days technical sessions have highlighted the strengths as well as the further requirement in the field of techniques and equipment used in conservation of monuments. The panel discussions featured subjects such as Advanced techniques in Art Conservation and Training, use of Modern Technology for Cultural Heritage and Phased Acquisition of Conservation Paraphernalia.

Conservation of cultural heritage is a crucial area that merits urgent attention worldwide. In this context, the Ministry of External Affairs of India, in association with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, is organising an ASEM Workshop on Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts on 6-7 February 2017 in New Delhi.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-workshop-techniques-instruments-conservation-monuments-artefacts
The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea hosted the 1st ASEM Education Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6) on 9-10 November 2016, in Seoul, Korea. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-senior-officials-meeting-asem-me6

2016-10-27/28 Vietnam ASEM Conference on Green Skills for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC Sustainable Development CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional ASEM PILLARS: Economic–Financial, Political, Social–Cultural The discussions, participants shared their common understanding that Green Growth certainly means not only higher efficiency in a technological sense, but also re-organization, re-structuring, de-carbonization, local initiatives and soft skills of responsible citizens and entrepreneurs, underscored the nexus of green skills and sustainable and inclusive growth The ASEM Conference on Green Skills for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth – a joint initiative by China, Cyprus, Italy, Laos, Romania, Switzerland and Viet Nam, was organized in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 27-28 October 2016. The event was endorsed by ASEM Leaders at the 10th ASEM Summit held in Milan in October 2014. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asm-conference-green-skills-sustainable-and-inclusive-growth-

2016-10-25/29 Indonesia 1st ASEMYouth Entrepreneurial Meeting: Passion-Pruners’ Challenge Towards 20 Years of ASEM TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people ASEM PILLARS: Economic–Financial, Socio–Cultural 1. Increased public awareness of the existence and role of ASEM and Indonesia’s leadership in ASEM, especially in the area of cooperation of people-to-people contact among youth of ASEM member countries 2. Strengthened ASEM connectivity, through the establishment of networks between youth of ASEM member countries Indonesia hosted the ASEM Passion-pruners’ Challenge in Jakarta, on 25-29 October 2016. This first Seminar was aimed at exploring interest and potential interest-based entrepreneurship and creativity driven by social mission (Passion-prunership) among young ASEM in order to combat social problem and/or creating more social impact. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/1st-asem-youth-entrepreneurial-meeting-passion-pruners-challenge-towards-20-years-asem


2016-10-05/05 Denmark ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2016 TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC Education and Research CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people ASEM PILLARS: Social–Cultural At the forum researchers, policymakers and practitioners discussed contemporary possibilities of developing 21st century skills for lifelong learning; key concepts for policies and practices in Asia and Europe and what role researchers and policy makers should play in creating lifelong learning opportunities for all in Asia and Europe The ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning: 21ST CENTURY SKILLS was held on 5-5 October 2016 at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University in Copenhagen, Denmark. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/sem-forum-lifelong-learning-2016


2016-07-13/14 Mongolia 15th Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF15) TYPE OF EVENT ASEM Forum TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda, Declaration, Press release CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Institutional, People-to-people ASEM PILLARS: Economic–Financial The business leaders agreed to provide strong impetus to boost investment to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth and bring together policies and actions to improve the environment investment, support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and promote knowledge sharing. The Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) is a meeting of business leaders from Asia and Europe, created by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to strengthen economic cooperation between the business sectors of the two regions. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/15th-asia-europe-business-forum-aebf15

2016-07-12/14 Mongolia ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) for ASEMM TYPE OF EVENT ASEM Forum TOPIC ASEM Forum follow-up and preparations CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Agenda The 11th Asia-Europe People’s Forum (AEBF11) tackled seven major themes focusing on developing strategies and recommendations to our elected representatives in our countries, and to ourselves, as active citizens. ASEM Senior Officials met on 12-14 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to prepare for the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11). The ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) was attended by officials from the 53 ASEMM partners. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som-38

2016-07-11/16 Mongolia Summits TYPE OF EVENT ASEM Forum TOPIC Human Rights and Development CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS: Practical information, Declaration, Chair’s statement, Press release CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional, People-to-people ASEM PILLARS: Economic–Financial, Political, Social–Cultural The ASEM11 Summit has two plenary sessions under the topics of ‘Two decades of partnership: taking stock and looking forward’ and ‘Promoting ASEM partnership for greater connectivity’. Session One will assess the 20 years’ experience of political dialogue, economic cooperation and socio-cultural exchange. At the second session, discussions will continue on developing both ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ connectivity between Asia and Europe.

Senior Officials recognized that there is growing uncertainty in the trade and investment environment, including a wave of protectionism. They discussed the necessity of revising and complementing the previously adopted TFAP and IRAE the Foreign Ministry of Korea, together with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea, hosted the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting on Trade and Investment (ASEM SOM12) on 2 December 2016 in Seoul, Korea. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials%e2%80%92meeting-trade-and-investment-asem-3012

2016-12-01/03 Bulgaria 5th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue: Water Nexus Agenda for the 3rd ASEM Decade TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC Sustainable Development DOCUMENTS Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: Physical, Institutional ASEM PILLARS: Economic–Financial The participants outlined the common challenges faced by Asia and Europe and called for sharing experience and best practices. They emphasized the vital role of effective water management in the efforts to engage in sustainable development, green growth and reversing the effects of climate change within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscored the importance of transboundary cooperation for achieving these ambitious goals. The event is part of the annual series in the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue (the Danube-Mekong cooperation initiative), launched by Hungary upon consultations with ASEM partners in 2012. Bulgaria is a co-organizer together with Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Viet Nam, Laos, PDR, and Thailand. Under the motto, “Dedicated to connect: 20 Years of Asia-Europe Meeting”, the 5th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue was organized as one of the events marking the 20th anniversary of ASEM in 2016. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/5th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-water-nexus-agenda-3rd-asem-decade

2016-11-09/19 South Korea 1st ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting for ASEM ME6 TYPE OF EVENT ASEM Forum TOPIC Education and Research CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS: Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Surveys / Annexes CONNECTIVITY PILLARS: People-to-people ASEM PILLARS: Socio–Cultural ASEM education ministers agreed on four priority areas within the ASEM Education Process for balanced, smart, sustainable and inclusive development: A. Quality assurance and recognition; B. Engaging business and industry in education; C. Balanced mobility; D. Lifelong learning including technical and vocational education and training.
### ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Transport  
**Connectivity**

The goal is to diagnose a real problem in strengthening the physical connectivity of Eurasia continent to come up with an efficient solution by continuing to hold the ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics and with the help of ASEM member countries’ active participation. Hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea and organized by the Korea Transport Institute, the ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics took place at Lotte Hotel Seoul in Seoul, 11-13 July 2016.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-eurasia-expert-group-meeting-transport-and-logistics

### 2016-06-20/21

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional, People-to-people  
**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural  
**Documents:** Practical Information, Agenda, Declaration  
**ASEM Forums:** www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-eurasia-expert-group-meeting-transport-and-logistics

### 2016-06-15/16

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Human Rights and Development  
**Connectivity Pillars:** People-to-people  
**ASEM Pillars:** Social-Cultural  
**Documents:** Practical Information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Chair’s statement  
**ASEM Forums:** www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-eurasia-expert-group-meeting-transport-and-logistics

### 2016-06-22/24

**Type of Event:** Ministerial Meeting  
**Topic:** Culture and Tourism  
**Connectivity**

The following has been concluded:

1. The sustainable development of creative industries requires flexible government policies and responses to challenges.
2. The protection of cultural goods and practices must be involved with the commercial market in order to develop.
3. Although every country is different, there are several shared factors that are necessary for the development of creative industries, such as networking, training, support policy and financial support.

The 7th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM07) on Culture and Creative Economy was held from 22-24 June 2016 in Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea. Information regarding the ASEM CMM7 is also available on the website at: www.asem2016cm.org.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/7th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asem-cmm7

### 2016-05-31 / 06-02

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity Pillars:** Institutional, People-to-people  
**ASEM Pillars:** Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural  
**Documents:** Practical Information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper  
**ASEM Forums:** www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-food-safety-seminar-training-farmers

### 2016-05-12/13

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity Pillars:** People-to-people  
**ASEM Pillars:** Socio-Cultural  
**Documents:** Practical Information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper  
**ASEM Forums:** www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-education-research

### 2016-04-21/22 Mongolia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity**

The day two ministerial meeting concentrated on discussions on quality infrastructure investments, cross-border infrastructure and transport, and broad approach to financial stability, while delegates also called for close attention to policy restructuring, increased numbers of bilateral engagements, and digital connectivity for forward looking developments. And in the meeting the importance of digital connectivity had been emphasized.

The ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM6) is an integral element of the ASEM process. Earlier ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meetings have pursued a dialogue on matters of common interest, in such fields as exchanging views concerning the global economic outlook, the international financial architecture, the more effective implementation of existing supervisory principles and regulations in the financial sector, combating money laundering, and strengthening cooperation in the field of customs.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/12th-asem-finance-ministers-meeting-fmm12

### 2015-04-15/16 Mongolia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Human Rights and Development  
**Connectivity**

The ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons was held as a follow-up to the ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons (hereinafter referred as the ASEM Conference), which was held in October 2015 after the approval at the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10).

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-expert-forum-human-rights-older-persons

### 2016-04-25/27 Brunei

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity**

The relevance and role of media as a major stakeholder in harnessing the power of the media to visibility and sustainability of ASEM beyond 2016. As the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2016, connectivity has emerged to be one of the priority areas for cooperation between Asia and Europe.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-media-dialogue-connectivity

### 2016-04-26/27 Mongolia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity**

To this end, the ASEM11 achieved the following:

1. The producers of cultural goods and practices must be empowered.
2. The sustainable development of creative industries, such as networking, training, support policy and financial support.
3. The role of government policy in judicial matters.
4. The promotion of cultural goods and practices.

The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) Summit was held 15-16 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Leaders of ASEM partner countries were welcomed by HE Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia.

ASEM partner countries were welcomed by HE Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia. The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) Summit was held 15-16 July 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The summit took place 3-5 May 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to discuss the future of ASEM, the ASEM 20th anniversary celebrations, and other issues related to the preparation for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM11), including discussions on the draft Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Chair’s Statement. The ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (ASEM SOM) was attended by over 170 representatives from 53 ASEM partners.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/11th-asem-eurasia-expert-group-meeting-transport-and-logistics

### 2016-05-09/10 China

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity**

- In this meeting the following topics will be discussed:
- ASEM connectivity today and tomorrow.
- The relevance and role of media as a major stakeholder.
- Harnessing the power of the media to visibility and sustainability of ASEM beyond 2016.

At the Summit, the major themes (or People’s Visions) have

1. The sustainable development of creative industries, such as networking, training, support policy and financial support.
2. The role of government policy in judicial matters.
3. The promotion of cultural goods and practices.

### 2016-05-12/13 Mongolia

**Type of Event:** ASEM activity  
**Topic:** Sustainable Development  
**Connectivity**

[34] 35
ASEM Parliaments recognized the importance of mainstreaming connectivity into all relevant ASEM cooperation frameworks and agreed that greater connectivity between the parliaments, parliaments and governments of Asian and European countries through development and improvement of trans-regional transport routes, corridors and networks, and promotion of exchange programmes will contribute towards increase of free flows of goods, services, capital and people leading to better understanding and closer relationship between the two regions.

The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEPP) Meeting is part of the overall Asia-Europe partnership process. It serves as a forum for inter-parliamentary contacts, exchanges and diplomacy among parliaments, and to promote mutual understanding among the people and countries of Asia and Europe. ASEM meetings are convened on a regular bi-annual basis before the ASEM Summit alternately in Asia and in Europe.
1. Identification of opportunities for collaboration with The outcomes of this session are the following:

The 4th ASEM Social Partners’ Forum was held on the side-lines of the 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference (ASEM LEMC5).

2. International cooperation in nuclear safety and security constitutes a relevant objective

The 4th ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety was held from 29-30 October 2015 in Madrid, Spain, addressing the issue of “Knowledge Management to Enhance Nuclear Safety”, which has become a high priority for national and international organizations working to ensure the safe and sustainable operation of nuclear facilities around the world.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-seminar-nuclear-safety

3. Learning from each other’s experiences on rating, GB

The meeting has discussed many topics related to food safety with discussions after each presentation to exchange knowledge and improve cooperation. Food safety is an increasingly important issue faced by both Asia and Europe. Both regions recognize their mutual interest to jointly promote wider scientific and technical coordination and cooperation on the food safety framework. Considering the challenges, the seminar introduced advanced scientific knowledge and experiences in food safety management from Asian and European Countries
2015-09-25 Japan ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Culture and Tourism → CONNECTIVITY

DOCUMENTS Agenda, Summary / Conclusions

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional

ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

Through discussions, eleven major benefits of tourism have been established and six factors that are constraining tourism.

During the ASEM10 Summit in October 2014 in Milan, Italy, the ASEM leaders recalled the importance of tourism both as an engine for growth and decent job creation and as a crucial tool to enhance people-to-people contacts, and reaffirmed their willingness to deepen cooperation in this area between Asia and Europe. Based on this idea, Japan decided to take a lead for the promotion of tourism between Asia and Europe, and to host the ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-promoting-tourism

2015-09-11 Belgium ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM)

TYPE OF EVENT Senior Officials’ Meeting

TOPIC ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations → CONNECTIVITY

DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Surveys / Annexes

Senior Officials discussed the future of ASEM, how to connect the two continents better through infrastructure and people-to-people links, as well as other matters of common interest such as climate change, sustainable development, disaster management and relevant regional and international issues.

Senior Officials from 53 ASEM partners gathered on 10-11 September 2015 in Brussels in preparation for the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FM12) that was chaired by EU High Representative and Vice-President Federica Mogherini on 5-6 November 2015 and hosted by Luxembourg.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-senior-officials-meeting-som

2015-09-09/11 South Korea ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Transport → CONNECTIVITY

DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Declaration

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Physical, Institutional

ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial

During this meeting, the need to establish an integrated transport and logistics network, the various challenges including security and safety related to transport, the need to improve cross-border cooperation between different institutions and the crucial role of the private sector have been discussed and added to a declaration.

The ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network, which was announced at the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10), in October 2014 in Milan, Italy by Korean President PARK Geun-hye, was held under the theme, Seamless Eurasia: Making Connections.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-symposium-eurasia-transport-and-logistics-network

2015-06-27 Singapore ASEM Seminar on Sustainable Management of Wastewater and Sanitation

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Sustainable Development

DOCUMENTS Practical information, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Final Report

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Physical, Institutional

ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial

The main purposes of the ASEM Seminar on Waste-water Management are to:

1. share technical expertise and solutions in waste-water management and sanitation,
2. foster Asia-Europe cooperation.

Waste-water management and sanitation are issues that are salient to counties in Europe and Asia. European countries have expertise in municipal waste-water management and have found innovative ways to recycle waste in order to advance their environmental goals. At the same time, Asian countries are striving to improve their practices to align themselves more closely to the Millennium Development Goals.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-sustainable-management-wastewater-and-sanitation

2015-06-17 Belgium 6th ASEM Customs-Trade Day

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation

DOCUMENTS Agenda

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional

ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial

The 6th ASEM Customs-Trade Day was an annual event held ahead of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) to engage the private sector on best practices and ensure attention for priorities of business.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-customs-trade-day

2015-06-03/05 Vietnam 4th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue: Strengthening Concerted Actions on Water Management Through the Post-2015 Agenda

TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Sustainable Development

DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Summary / Conclusions

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Physical, Institutional

ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial

Leaders committed to stimulating tangible cooperation between Asia and Europe in water-related issues, reaffirming ASEM’s engagement to bi-regional cooperation between the Danube and Mekong regions, as a model in transforming the shared challenges related to food, water and energy security into opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The 4th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue was held on 3-5 June 2015 in Bien Tre, Vietnam. The dialogue focused on the theme, Strengthening Concerted Actions on Water Management Through the Post-2015 Agenda.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-sustainable-development-dialogue-strengthening-concerted-actions-on-water-management


TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity

TOPIC Sustainable Development, Physical

CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional

ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial

Leaders reaffirmed their engagement to address emerging challenges through trans-boundary cooperation and collective efforts, with the view towards promoting sustainable water management, flood risk control and ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

ASEM Leaders committed to stimulate tangible cooperation between Europe and Asia in water-related issues, reaffirming ASEM’s engagement to concrete bi-regional cooperation between the Danube and Mekong regions in order to transform the shared challenges related to food, water and energy security into opportunities for growth and sustainable development.

Laos will host the 4th ASEM Sustainable Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in June 2015. This follows up the outcomes of
In conclusion, the participants emphasized the important role of transport as an enabler of growth and prosperity, took into account new innovative intermodal and multimodal supply chain solutions and the importance of promoting and enhancing transport integration, among other things. The 3rd ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TMM3) was held from 29th to 30th April 2015 in Riga, Latvia under the theme, “Development of Euro-Asia Multimodal Transport Linkages—Status Quo and Blueprints for the Future”. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/third-asem-transport-ministers-meeting-asm-tmm3

1. Develop economic cooperation within the region
2. Create a cooperation mechanism to provide with recommendations and proposals on issues of energy security, among other things.
3. Improve policy and legal environment for renewable energy in developing Asian countries.
4. Assess renewable energy consumption
5. Importance of creating and implementing of a mini-grid project model using the modern technology of renewable energy in order to reduce pollution etc.

2015-05-18/26 Brunei ASEM Workshop on Fostering Entrepreneurship in Higher Education TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC Trade and Economic Cooperation DOCUMENTS Agenda, Summary / Conclusions CONNECTIVITY PILLARS People-to-people ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural The participants discussed and proposed a number of recommendations as a stepping forward by improving the educational and business culture that cultivate and nurture the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The 4th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME4) held on 15–16 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia highlighted the engagement of business and industry, as one of the key policy areas in which to achieve better understanding of and greater comparability between the different education systems of ASEM.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-renewable-energy

2015-04-26/27/28 Latvia 5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME5) TYPE OF EVENT Ministerial Meeting TOPIC Education and Research → CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Speeches, Final Report, Summary / Conclusions CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural The participants not only shared experience from their countries and organisations, but also gave many constructive suggestions on how the issues – skills’ development for better employability and new learning technologies in education – could be looked through the ASEM education cooperation. Additionally, participants have set priorities for the future work-cycle.

ASEM ME5 was organised by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with the ASEM Education Secretariat, the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretariat of the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/fifth-asem-education-ministers-meeting-asem-me5

2015-04/26 India 2nd Preparatory ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SO) for the 5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME5) TYPE OF EVENT Senior Officials’ Meeting TOPIC Education and Research CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural ASEM Senior Officials for Education met in Latvia prior to the 5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME5) for the final preparations. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-seminar-cooperation-science-technology-innovation-sustainable-development

2015-03-30 Thailand ASEM Symposium on the Future Direction of ASEM TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC ASEM Summit follow-up and preparations → CONNECTIVITY DOCUMENTS Practical information, Agenda, Draft concept paper / discussion paper, Final Report, Initiative CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Physical, Institutional, People-to-people ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial, Political, Socio-Cultural ASEM should have a sharper focus on a smaller cluster of issues which allow for real exchanges of views, ideas and experience-sharing. Enhanced connectivity requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including industry and the think-tank and academic community. In the end, ASEM’s future hinges on continued economic interdependence and increased strategic engagement between Asia and Europe. During the ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SO) held on 15-14 October 2014 in Milan, Italy, ASEM Senior Officials welcomed Thailand’s proposal to host the “ASEM Symposium on the Future Direction of ASEM”. The main objective of the Symposium was to take stock of ASEM’s
3. Balance the ICT hype with educational strategies that address the relevance and efficiency of the use of these systems in relation to specific contexts. The ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2015 themed “Connecting Asia and Europe: Seeking 21st Century Solutions” addressed how universities can better cooperate with the business sector to equip students with employability skills, foster entrepreneurship, and create new learning environments through information and communication technologies. (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation enhance technological and cultural innovation through education?”

ASEM PILLARS

Economic–Financial

1. The networks of national information centres in the European and Asian regions are encouraged to work closely with other regional cooperation and information exchange on recognition matters.
2. Effective cooperation mechanism, as well as cooperation activities shall be jointly constituted and implemented by all national information centres and those institutions with responsibilities for national information centres through respective regional networks.
3. Inter-regional cooperation is not confined to national information centres or those institutions with responsibilities for recognition of qualifications in other regions as well. Further, it is expected that all ASEM members could strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation policies and initiatives in the context of ASEM’s new approach of tangible cooperation, a Roundtable to deliberate on the subject and identify important factors contributing towards water use efficiency and their relative contributions, which would facilitate prioritization in evolving investment strategies to promote water use efficiency, was proposed. India hosted the ASEM Roundtable on Water Management Technologies towards Efficient and Sustainable Water Management through Partnerships Amongst ASEM Countries as part of Water India 2015. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-water-management-technologies


The main objective is to set up an ASEM Asia Centre for Natural Disaster Management and Relief in India, as part of India’s Look East Policy. It was suggested that Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies will convene a meeting among ASEM partners.

Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies among ASEM members convene to discuss disaster management and relief.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-%e2%80%93innovations-technologies-disaster-rescue-efforts%e2%80%94

4. Tourism Management and Cultural Diversity

ASEM PILLAR Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

6. Electronic (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation enhance the effectiveness and the impact on innovation, taking into account the global nature of business and the fact that many companies have branches in both regions.

The 4th ASEM University-Business Forum considered how higher education contributes to the local, economic, technological and cultural innovation through education. To what extent could trans-regional and cross-border (Asia-Europe) university-business cooperation enhance the effectiveness and the impact on innovation? The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India offered an intensive one-week long module on Diplomacy and Foreign Policy – An Indian Perspective for diplomats from ASEM members, from 9-13 March 2015 in New Delhi, India. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/4th-asem-university-policy-module-asem-diplomats

2015-03-11/12 Thailand 3rd ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM3) TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC: Disaster Management / Resilience DOCUMENTS Declaration, Chair’s statement CONNECTIVITY PILLARS People-to-people ASEM PILLARS Economic–Financial, Socio-Cultural

Four core topics of urban issues that are of common interest among all cities in the present day were discussed:
1. Disaster Management,
2. Response to Impacts of Environmental Issues,
3. Traffic and Transportation Management,

The ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors (ASEM-MGM3) serves as a venue for a dialogue on the municipal level between Governors and Mayors of cities in ASEM countries in Europe and Asia. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-meeting-governors-and-mayors-asem-mgm3

2015-03-09/12 Indonesia ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning 2015 TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC: Education and Research DOCUMENTS Declaration CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional ASEM PILLARS Socio-Cultural

The present tendency is that lifelong learning research offers new knowledge for devising solutions suited to different contexts in order to renew the agenda. This brings along three main recommendations:
1. Developing states can hardly afford to ignore the lessons that strong states using heavy investment in education tend to get there first;
2. Specific challenges for Confucian learners

4. Bringing together technological transformation and demonstration of global best available technologies and in demonstration projects under priority areas such as Life Science, Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology & Medical devices.

ASEM members could strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)–led cooperation and industrial R&D. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-roundtable-cooperation-industrial-ist-and-technology-alliances-life-sciences


The Workshop achieved the objectives initially targeted by the organizers, since it provided a platform for bilateral exchanges and establishing personal contacts between authoritative officials in Asset Recovery and Financial Intelligence proceedings.

The Workshop aims to share knowledge and best practices with government officials from ASEM members working on asset recovery and restitutions.


2014-11-12/14 Latvia 2nd ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration Working Group Meeting TYPE OF EVENT ASEM activity TOPIC: Education and Research DOCUMENTS: Declaration CONNECTIVITY PILLARS Institutional, People-to-people ASEM PILLAR Political, Socio-Cultural

1. The networks of national information centres in the European and Asian regions are encouraged to work closely with other regional cooperation and information exchange on recognition matters. 2. Effective cooperation mechanism, as well as cooperation activities shall be jointly constituted and implemented by all national information centres and those institutions with responsibilities for national information centres through respective regional networks.
3. Inter-regional cooperation is not confined to national information centres or those institutions with responsibilities for recognition of qualifications in other regions as well. Further, it is expected that all ASEM members could strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation policies and initiatives during regional networks.

ASEM PILLAR Economic–Financial

The aim was to strengthen STI-led cooperation between India and ASEM member countries, and identify technologies that can be targeted for joint industrial R&D and pilot
1. The floor agreed on the importance of international capacity-building and cooperation in nuclear safety. Continuing discussions on nuclear safety and to foster Asia-Europe cooperation and coordination in the field of food safety.

2. Participants agreed that the regulators are not in the position to judge which technology is better. Therefore, those countries interested to introduce NPPs should consult all the types available in the market.

3. It was underlined the importance of specific education on nuclear physics, and also advanced trainings and fellowships to enhance the expertise, in addition to increasing the number of personnel for both regulatory body and utilities.

The 3rd ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety aimed to initiate discussions on nuclear safety and to foster Asia-Europe capacity-building and cooperation in nuclear safety. www.aseminfoboard.org/events/3rd-asem-seminar-nuclear-safety

2014-10-27/29 Vietnam 4th ASEM ME Seminar on Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship Education

**TYPE OF EVENT**: ASEM activity

**TOPIC**: Education and Research

**CONNECTIVITY PILAR**: People-to-people

**ASEM PILAR**: Economic-Financial, Socio-Cultural

The Working Group focused on two major issues:
- Case studies from 10 ASEM countries on successful education programmes on entrepreneurship education;
- Key drivers to prepare and implement education policies on innovation and entrepreneurship for primary, secondary and vocational education.

The ASEM ME Innovative Competences Programme aimed to share knowledge on how the education sector can proactively involve children and youth towards innovation and creativity.


2014-10-20/21 The Netherlands 6th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM6)

**TYPE OF EVENT**: Ministerial Meeting

**TOPIC**: Trade and Economic Cooperation

**DOCUMENTS**: Chair’s statement, Surveys / Annexes, Summary / Conclusions

**CONNECTIVITY PILAR**: People-to-people

**ASEM PILAR**: Socio-Cultural

In conclusion, a partnership of equivalence between the cultural, creative industries and education sector should be established. Productive use of internships, apprenticeships and other mechanisms which connect teaching, learning and creative practice should be encouraged and best practice governance models should be shared.

The Netherlands hosted the 6th ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting (ASEM CMM6) from 19-21 October 2014 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asm-cmm6

2014/10/19 The Netherlands 2nd ASEM Preparatory SOM for the 6th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM6)

**TYPE OF EVENT**: Senior Officials’ Meeting

**TOPIC**: Culture and Tourism

**CONNECTIVITY PILAR**: People-to-people

**ASEM PILAR**: Socio-Cultural

ASEM Senior Officials for Culture met to prepare for the 6th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (CMM6).

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/2nd-asem-preparatory-6th-asem-culture-ministers-meeting-asm-cmm6

2014-10-16/17 Italy 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10)

**TYPE OF EVENT**: Summits

**TOPIC**: Trade and Economic Cooperation, Defence and Security, Sustainable Development

**CONNECTIVITY PILAR**: Physical, Institutional, People-to-people

**ASEM PILAR**: Economic-Financial, Political, Socio-Cultural

Under the theme “Responsible Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Security”, leaders exchanged views on economic, financial, regional and global issues, as well as traditional and non-traditional security challenges, in the spirit of partnership between Asia and Europe. Highlighting the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, leaders discussed the way forward in creating an enabling environment for the prosperity of their people through the enhancing of links between Asia and Europe. Leaders also agreed to strengthen ASEM’s three pillars of cooperation in the lead-up to ASEM’s 20th anniversary in 2016. The 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) was chaired by the President of the European Council and hosted by the Government of Italy. The Summit was held on 16-17 October 2014 in the Italian city of Milan.

www.aseminfoboard.org/events/10th-asem-summit-asm10