



**ASEM GREEN GROWTH FORUM
WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMIES**

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 03 – 04 October 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

1. The **ASEM Green Growth Forum: Working together towards green economies**, co-sponsored by Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands, was organized on 03 – 04 October 2011 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. This is an initiative approved by Leaders at the Eighth Asia - Europe Meeting in Brussels in October 2010.
2. Recognizing the importance of Green Growth as the way towards environmentally sustainable growth, this Forum aimed to raise awareness of ASEM governments and people of the urgent need of transition to green growth and to exchange experience and best practices for the development of green growth policies and measures. It also sought to make recommendations on possible cooperation in research and development.
3. The Forum gathered approximately 190 participants, including ASEM government officials, researchers as well as representatives from the Asia – Europe Foundation, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNREDD, UNDP, Hanns Seidel Foundation and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.
4. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Vu Van Ninh, Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam stressed the importance of Green Growth as mankind's future development pattern and called for ASEM's greater efforts and cooperation towards green economies. Immediately following that, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Minh Quang, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Viet Nam focused his keynote speech on the linkages between green growth and climate change, and emphasized that the Green Growth model is not only economically conducive to but also effectively in addressing environmental issues and the adverse impacts of climate change.
5. During the two-day meeting, participants heard over 16 presentations on a wide range of green growth related issues. Participants came to agree that the patterns of production and consumption largely based on the extensive and unsustainable exploitation of fossil fuels and other natural resources should not be further pursued since the environmental and social costs would exceed the economic gains. Participants expressed their strong belief that the new initiative of Green Growth and that of Green Economy within the UN framework can offer a more sustainable and effective approach, both economically and environmentally.

Participants also shared their experience in transforming their national economies into low-carbon and more environmentally friendly patterns. They noted that through appropriate measures and reasonable roadmaps, Green Growth could create the new incentive for economic development in combination with the environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, creation of employment..., and at the same time effectively cope with the current trend of climate change. Participants welcomed the UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, which offers supports to countries' national initiatives to achieve green economic transformation.

6. Participants shared the view that green growth initiatives should engage all stakeholders including the governments, the private sector, the public and the media, and that a low carbon society will require the involvement of the private sector. They emphasized the importance of building up national socio-economic orientation and strategies with a view to enhancing public awareness, establishing national coordination mechanisms and legal frameworks, and preparing necessary resources for green growth transformation. In the context of post-crisis recovery, it was widely recognized by participants that the enhancement of green investment could catalyze the shift toward green growth through promoting green technologies and clean models of production. They also expressed their appreciation to ASEM members' continued sharing of experience and best practices in green growth strategies and policies building. Participants valued developing countries' commitments and efforts to develop national green growth strategy and pursue the green growth roadmap.

7. Participants discussed several aspects of green growth such as the employment of renewable energy, low-carbon technologies, resources efficiency, green urban development, green agriculture development, green production and consumption.

In this connection, participants highlighted various instruments:

- (i) Energy efficiency policies;
- (ii) Green tax reform;
- (iii) Feed-in tariff;
- (iv) Waste charging programs;
- (v) Emission trading system; and
- (vi) Investment in natural capital.

8. Participants agreed that green growth is a holistic approach which includes not only economic components, but also social and environmental ones. Therefore, they emphasized the necessity to integrate environment and climate change adaptation into national development planning, especially for developing countries, where marginalized groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

9. Acknowledging the vast potentials for ASEM cooperation in green growth, participants recommended that ASEM's efforts should focus on the following, among others:

- (i) Necessity of the development of the common strategic vision towards green economies for ASEM;
- (ii) Capacity building projects;
- (iii) Green technology cooperation;
- (iv) Eco-efficiency promotion related projects;
- (v) Emission trading system development and Climate Change projects;
- (vi) Infrastructure investment projects;
- (vii) Investment projects on development of the environmental industry sector;
- (viii) Strengthening of approaches for mainstreaming, including strategic environmental assessment; and
- (ix) Other multilateral and bilateral cooperation projects related to green growth.

10. The outcomes and recommendations of the Forum will be reported to the upcoming ASEM SOM in October in Tokyo, Japan and the 4th ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in May 2012.

Ha Noi, 04 October 2011