

## **International Asia-Europe Conference on Enhancing Balanced Mobility**

**Bangkok, Thailand 5 – 6 March 2012**

### **Recommendations and future outlook**

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Balanced mobility has been one of the core topics during the last Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education in Copenhagen, May 2011. According to the ASEM members' information, the overall situation for the exchange between Asia and Europe varies from country to country. Some countries are "net importers" of mobile students, others are "net exporters". However, European countries still count more incomings than outgoings, while most Asian countries do the other way around.

According to the Chairs' conclusion from the third Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3), the Ministers welcomed Thailand's offer to host an international ASEM conference on mobility in late 2011. Originally, this conference was scheduled for November 2011 but a terrible flood made it impossible to meet in Thailand at that date.

Consequently, about 200 participants met in Bangkok from 5-6 March 2012. During the two-day seminar, Asian and European experts informed the audience about the current situation on student and staff mobility in different regions and presented different national and institutional approaches to better balance mobility. The conference has come to the conclusion which appeared in the following table:

## Recommendations

| Stakeholder      | Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Instruments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Tools                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ministry         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National “International Strategy” embedding mobility in national framework both at bilateral and multilateral levels</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Mobility for all</li> <li>• Stimulate both student and staff mobility</li> <li>• Improve national database/ information on academic mobility</li> <li>• Always update database</li> <li>• Set strategy for balanced mobility</li> <li>• Convene international sessions</li> <li>• Involve industry in mobility programme</li> </ul>                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set national standard and guideline for recognition</li> <li>• National scholarship scheme</li> <li>• Mobility alumni</li> <li>• Act as clearing house</li> <li>• Give incentives for temporary mobility</li> <li>• Promote ambassadors for mobility</li> <li>• Promote internship and placement</li> <li>• Promote university-business cooperation</li> <li>• Promote joint study programmes</li> <li>• Education market</li> </ul>                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality assurance</li> <li>• NQF</li> <li>• Credit transfer mechanism(ECTS, UCTS, ACTS)</li> <li>• ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme</li> <li>• Database</li> <li>• Education fairs</li> <li>• DEEP</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Higher Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific planning and implementation strategies</li> <li>• Set mobility target</li> <li>• Improve quality</li> <li>• Embed mobility in institutional framework both at bilateral and multilateral levels</li> <li>• Involve students, staff, faculty members in implementing strategies</li> <li>• Improve communication of stakeholders</li> <li>• Develop international programmes</li> <li>• Expand academic network</li> <li>• Seek international cooperation around the world</li> <li>• High commitment to academic mobility</li> <li>• Flexible of time frame</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set criteria for credit transfer</li> <li>• Set internal quality assurance</li> <li>• Provide transparency/2 ways information</li> <li>• Provide accredited programmes</li> <li>• Promote staff mobility</li> <li>• Promote joint integrated programmes/joint research</li> <li>• Improve facilities, infrastructure, and service system</li> <li>• Provide resources</li> <li>• Permeable framework</li> <li>• Decrease barriers</li> <li>• Structured programmes</li> <li>• Inter-university agreement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website in targeted languages</li> <li>• Bilateral agreement/ MOU</li> <li>• English/international/ Short term study abroad programmes</li> <li>• University scholarships</li> <li>• Attractive programmes (incorporate culture and exotic tourism into programme provision)</li> <li>• Online courses/online application system</li> <li>• Summer school</li> <li>• Learning outcomes</li> </ul> |
| Caveats          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different categories of international student mobility</li> <li>• Do not loose best friends (Improve quality always)</li> <li>• Brain drain VS Degree mobility</li> <li>• Brain exchange VS Temporary mobility</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### **Future Direction**

**Short term:** Organise a workshop to formulate a regional strategy for balanced mobility and develop an Asia Postal on Higher Education

**Medium term:** Develop joint qualifications framework between Asia and Europe

**Long term:** Take into account the concept of virtual mobility and lifelong learning