



ASIA-EUROPE MEETING

**ASEM HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
ON DISASTER PREVENTION AND RELIEF IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 18 – 19 November 2013**

**“Strengthening Asia – Europe Cooperation for
Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development”**

SUMMARY REPORT

1. The ASEM High-level Meeting on Disaster Prevention and Relief in Response to Climate Change –co-sponsored by European Commission, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Netherlands, Pakistan and the Philippines, was organized in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 18 – 19 November 2013. This event was approved by ASEM Leaders at the Ninth Asia - Europe Summit in Vientiane in November 2012 with a view to strengthen ASEM cooperation in Disaster Management, Mitigation and Emergency Response and providing a discussion platform for members and relevant institutions.
2. The Meeting gathered about 120 participants, including officials from ASEM Partners, researchers, representatives from the United Nations agencies and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). The list of participants is attached as Annex.
3. Before the formal commencement of discussions, the Meeting observed a minute of silence in honor of the victims of super typhoon Haiyan.
4. The Meeting was opened by H. E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. In his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister pointed out that natural disasters would continue to be one of the most challenging non-traditional security threats of the 21st century, hindering all efforts to improve the quality of life of our peoples, to accelerate economic recovery, to promote sustainable development and to strengthen international economic integration. To effectively cope with challenges posed by disasters in the future, he called for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, the discussion of practical measures, the establishment of a network of research institutes between ASEM partners in disaster risk reduction, management, preparedness and relief. H.E. Mr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, praised the efforts made by ASEM partners, especially the co-sponsors, in contributing to the global response to natural disasters.
5. In the presentations and discussions, the meeting discussed the negative combined impact of social economic development and climate change on the intensity and frequency of disasters and the relevance of this Meeting and highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration and investment in disaster risk reduction. Participants also discussed the future priorities for disaster risk management and how disaster risk management should be included in the post-2015 development agenda (Millennium Development Goals- MDGs). They also shared best practices and innovative approaches in disaster risk management; discussed how to close the gaps and to enhance the link between science and policies/practice for evidence-based risk sensitive planning and decision making and include those insights into the Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action.

6. The meeting proposed a number of recommendations to enhance the cooperation between ASEM Partners in disaster prevention and response, including:

- (i) Integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into regional and national sustainable development strategies;
- (ii) Promoting community-based approaches in disaster prevention and relief and supporting Governments in developing and rolling out their own programs;
- (iii) Connecting early-warning systems and information sharing hubs/networks to facilitate policy planning, risks evaluation and control and, search and rescue operations, etc.;
- (iv) Reinforcing search and rescue and evacuation mechanisms including for mountainous and remote communities, immigrant workers, seafarers, etc.;
- (v) Organizing regular capacity building activities and exchange of expertise, including collective disaster emergency response exercises, infrastructure improvement, etc.;
- (vi) Exchanging experiences and enhancing cooperation in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development, including the planning and implementation of policy in water resource management, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, land use and other relevant sectors;
- (vii) Promoting Public-Private Partnership in building disaster resilience, including improving disaster prevention and relief infrastructure, capacity building, humanitarian assistance, etc.;
- (viii) Promoting modeling of risk assessments and geo-hazard mapping;
- (ix) Highlighting disaster prevention and relief in the ASEM Cooperation through establishing a regular and high-level cooperation platform, integrating disaster prevention and relief in the discussion agenda of ASEM Summits and Foreign Ministers' Meetings;
- (x) Improving ASEM engagement and support to regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanism.

7. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Philippines' offer to host the next ASEM Conference on Technology and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation in mid September 2014. They invited other ASEM partners to follow suit in hosting future events.

8. The Meeting agreed to report the outcomes and recommendations of the Meeting to the 10th ASEM Summit in Italy in 2014 through the ASEM SOM. *AV*

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 19 November 2013