



Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development

21-22 April 2015, Beijing, China

Brief Summary of Discussion

Delegates from ASEM members gathered in Beijing from 21 to 22 April 2015 to attend the ASEM Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development. The Seminar was co-sponsored by China, Singapore and Greece and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). Representatives from the ASEF also attended the Seminar.

Delegates discussed a wide range of topics related to Asia-Europe science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation such as the linkage of STI with sustainable development; policies stimulating innovation and exemplary programs; case studies of STI cooperation through key bilateral or multilateral facilitating mechanisms; experience sharing in mutually beneficial technology transfer; factors to build an enabling environment for STI cooperation such as IPR protection, legal services, and financing, etc.

Delegates reaffirmed the paramount importance of STI for equitable growth and sustainable development in the global environment of rapidly evolving technologies and recognized that intensified cooperation among ASEM members in this regard is vital to exploit complementary strengths in order to achieve the common goal of sustainable development.

Delegates welcomed the decision of ASEM leaders at the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) “to enhance cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and to promote the joint development and deployment of innovative solutions, in order to address common societal challenges and to strengthen the trans-regional mobility of researchers and innovators.”

Delegates also recalled the proposed establishment of ASEM Cooperation Centre for

Science, Technology and Innovation (ACCSTI) at the 10th ASEM Summit as a means to promote linkages between European and Asian researchers and innovators, and welcomed the draft proposal for ACCSTI presented at the Seminar.

Delegates expressed strong support to the establishment of the ACCSTI as a platform for policy dialogue, experience sharing and cooperation matchmaking in order to facilitate joint research and market-oriented transfer and application of S&T results as well as to promote the public awareness of sustainable development. Delegates noted the importance and centrality of technology transfer from developed to developing members as well as among developing members as means of mutually empowering ASEM members.

Delegates commended China on taking the leadership in designing and establishing the ACCSTI and called for broad participation amongst ASEM members. Delegates also pointed out that close cooperation and coordination is necessary leading to the formal launch of the ACCSTI to ensure it will add value to the existing mechanisms on STI cooperation both regionally and internationally.

Delegates also suggested that voluntary provision of organizational, legal, financial and staffing support from ASEM members is also of importance.

Delegates expressed their wish to work jointly towards strengthening of the operation of ACCSTI, through participation in events and cooperative activities organized or managed by the Centre, as well as facilitating the establishment of the network of national focal points for the Centre in ASEM members.