

ASIA-EUROPE MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION (ASEMME4)

STRATEGIZING ASEM EDUCATION COLLABORATION

THE ROYALE CHULAN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

12 – 14 MAY 2013

1. What is ASEM?

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation between European and Asian countries was established in Bangkok, Thailand in 1996, bringing together bringing together 27 European Union member states, 2 European countries, and the European Commission with 20 Asian Countries and ASEAN Secretariat. During the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit in Vientiane, Laos ASEM was joined officially by three new members, Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland. This brings the total number of its member to **51** countries.

The ASEM Dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

2. Brief information on Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4)

Malaysia has been given the honour to host two international ASEM events namely, the **Third ASEM University-Business Forum** (which

was held in November 2012) and the **Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4)**.

In preparation towards ASEMME4, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia had organized the First **Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1)** for Senior Officials of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education of Asia and European countries, in preparation towards the **Fourth ASEM Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4) which is scheduled to be held in May 2013.**

The organization of Senior Officials Meeting and ASEMME4 is a joint effort between Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) with ASEM Education Secretariat.

3. Countries Taking Part / Participations

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) brings together bringing together 27 European Union member states, 2 European countries, and the European Commission with 20 Asian Countries and ASEAN Secretariat. Further to that, during the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit in Vientiane, Laos ASEM was joined officially by three new members, Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland.

This brings the total number of **51** countries.

Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Hungary	Norway
ASEAN Secretariat	India	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Indonesia	The Philippines
Belgium	Ireland	Poland
Brunei Darussalam	Italy	Portugal
Bulgaria	Japan	Romania

Cambodia	Republic of Korea	Russia
China	Laos	Singapore
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Slovenia
Denmark	Luxembourg	Spain
Estonia	Malaysia	Sweden
European Commission	Malta	Switzerland
Finland	Mongolia	Thailand
France	Myanmar	United Kingdom
Germany	The Netherlands	Vietnam

4. Purpose of the Meeting (ASEMME4)

ASEM Education Ministers convened first in Berlin, Germany, to establish a strategic Asia-Europe education collaboration.

Since then, Ministers have met regularly to demonstrate commitment and to set agenda with regards to higher education, lifelong learning and vocational education and training. In fact, the ASEM Education Ministers meetings have become a strategic and important forum to share experience, discuss relevant issues and challenges and to identify best practices.

5. Theme

Strategizing ASEM Education Collaboration

6. Focus of Discussion

The four (4) main priority areas of ASEM Education Process are on :

- a. Quality Assurance and Recognition
- b. University-Business / Industry Cooperation
- c. Mobility
- d. Lifelong Learning (LLL) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

However, besides the four primary focus areas as stated above, several other topics will be presented and discussed during the ASEM SOM2 and during the four Plenary Sessions of ASEMME4, titled, **ASEF's Contribution to the ASEM Education Process, Global Inventory on National Qualifications Framework, Quality Assurance and Recognition, Engaging Business and Industry in Education, Lifelong Learning, including Technical Vocational Education and Training** and also a discussion pertaining to **Cooperation between Asian and Europe**.

In addition to the above, **Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia will be presenting a paper on Balanced Mobility**.

7. Has Malaysia hosted ASEM program previously?

Malaysia has recently hosted ASEM University-Business Forum on 5 and 6 November 2012 and also ASEM First Senior Officials Meeting on 28 and 29 January 2013.

8. Date, Venue and Participations of ASEMME4

The SOM2 and ASEMME4 will be held on 12th till 14th May 2013 at the Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Ministers of Education and Senior Officers representing ASEM member countries and international organizations are expected to attend the meeting.

9. Outcome

Presentation and adoption of **Chair's Conclusions**, discussion on all the **four priory areas** and strategic approaches towards further developing the **ASEM education process**.