



CONCEPT PAPER

Webinar on the Commemoration of 25th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

“Getting Ready for the New Normal: ASEM Strategies to Navigate the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery?”

In collaboration with Udayana University
Bali, 5 April 2021

A. EVENT BACKGROUND

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

ASEM comprises 53 Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union, and the ASEAN Secretariat. Through its informal process based on equal partnership and enhancing mutual understanding, ASEM facilitates and stimulates progress but does not seek to duplicate bilateral and other multilateral relationships between Asia and Europe.

Indonesia sees ASEM as an important and strategic forum for dialogue and cooperation to support the relationship and building mutual understanding for both continents. In line with the current priorities of the Indonesian Government, ASEM cooperation can support the accomplishment of national targets within the framework of increasing trade, investment, poverty alleviation, and increasing human resource capacity in Indonesia.

In the first month of 2020, everyone in the world started this year with a growing concern over the fast spread of COVID-19 which then turned into a pandemic. We have also dealt with the fact that the pandemic has caused grave disruptions to the global economy, trade, and travel which eventually led to unprecedented job losses and impacted heavily on the lives of the people and economies of the ASEM Partners.

The global pandemic has lasted for over a year and changed the way we live in so many aspects. It forces us to adapt to the current situation. At the beginning of 2021, the coronavirus vaccine has brought new hope for the world to reduce the spread of the virus and put an end to the global pandemic. With the new optimism, the world is preparing for recovery and rebuilding the economy and other aspects of our society that were impacted by the global pandemic. In preparing for the recovery, we have to set strategies to rebuild our economies and other social aspects stronger than pre-pandemic.

This year, we also celebrated the 25th anniversary of ASEM. In the last 25 years, ASEM has proven its relevance as a forum where Leaders could discuss important issues for both regions and connecting the people from Asia and Europe. ASEM has become more important now with the global pandemic as the platform of cooperation on post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery between Asia and Europe. With partners from both continents joining forces, ASEM represents 60% of the world's population with more than 60% of the world's GDP. ASEM

Partners has a huge potential for cooperation in various fields, including in the health, economic, and education sectors.

Based on the above considerations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia c.q. the Directorate of American and European Inter-regional and Intra-regional Cooperation considers the importance of bringing up the current issue of the global pandemic to a broader scope, particularly to the academic community for an interactive discussion. We hope that after participating in this webinar, Indonesian students will understand the role of ASEM, most importantly on ASEM strategies to prepare for the 'new normal' and what the ASEM partner countries could offer on the post-action plans. The purpose of this idea is nonetheless to raise public awareness about ASEM, to promote the achievements of ASEM in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of ASEM, and as part of the annual ASEM Day celebration.

B. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

1. To raise students' awareness of ASEM and promote the existence and benefits of ASEM as a comprehensive dialogue forum among countries in Asia and Europe.
2. To strengthen the agenda of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in terms of sharing information about Indonesia's foreign policies to the public as well as receiving feedback.
3. To inform of what the ASEM, through its institution ASEF, has done during the COVID-19 pandemic for the public in both regions.

C. GUIDING QUESTIONS

Some of these questions below can be used as a guide for the speakers:

1. Does ASEM have its own platform for policy dialogue between ASEM Partners with a focus on pandemic preparedness and response?
2. Does ASEM prepare a post-action plan for the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. What are the initiatives or actions that have been taken by ASEM to prepare for the post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery in both regions?
4. How to strengthen cooperation between ASEM Partner Countries during the global pandemic?
5. Which sectors of cooperation need to be strengthened in order to rebuild a stronger society post- COVID-19 pandemic?
6. How Indonesia or Russia could help by taking part in the handling of the global pandemic?
7. How does the global pandemic affect the students of all the ASEM partner countries?
8. How has ASEF shifted its program to fit the current pandemic situation and what strategies does ASEF have to prepare for the new normal?

D. LOCATION OF EVENT

I. Time

The event will be held on 5 April 2021.

II. Location

The event will be conducted in the format of a hybrid meeting where the speakers and few participants will join physically in Bali and the rest of the participants will join through videoconference. Speakers are welcome to join via videoconference if unable to travel to Bali.

III. Participants

The participants of this event will be students from Udayana University, Embassies of ASEM Partners in Jakarta, as well as related ministries and institutions.

E. RUNDOWN AND EVENT PROGRAM

07.00 – 09.00	Preparation and Antigen Test for the Participants and Speakers in Bali
09.00 – 09.05	Opening by MC
09.05 – 09.15	Keynote Speech by the Director-General for American and European Affairs, H.E. Mr. Ngurah Swajaya
09.15 – 09.25	Keynote Speech by the Rector of Udayana University
09.35 – 09.35	Transition and opening by Moderator
09.35 – 09.50	Speaker 1: Mr. Masni Eriza , Director of American and European Inter-regional and Intra-regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
09.50 – 10.05	Speaker 2: H.E. Mrs. Ludmila Vorobieva , Ambassador for the Russian Federation to Indonesia (tbc)
10.05 – 10.20	Speaker 3: H.E. Mr. Vincent Piket , Head of the EU Delegation to Indonesia & Brunei Darussalam (tbc)
10.20 – 10.35	Speaker 4: Ms. Leonie Nagarajan , Director for Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (tbc)
10.35 – 12.00	Discussion / Q&A Session