



Asia-Europe Meeting

**Concept Paper**

**HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE**

**ASEM AT 25: STRENGTHENING ASIA – EUROPE PARTNERSHIP IN A  
TRANSFORMING WORLD**

**BACKGROUND**

- Exactly a quarter of a century ago, ASEM was founded by 26 Leaders from Asia and Europe as a bridge that connects the two continents. 25 years is not a long period of time compared to the 700 year-old relationship between Asia and Europe, yet we can be proud of what we have accomplished so far. ASEM has grown beyond our initial expectations and established itself as a crucial platform for dialogue and cooperation. As the largest cooperation forum between the two continents, ASEM has been instrumental in forging links and multi-layered cooperation for peace and development.
- ASEM has been and continues to be an important factor in shaping the global setting in the 21st century, transforming itself to include new elements of cooperation and integration. After 25 years, the Forum finds itself at the critical stage of transformation, as the world continues to witness profound changes that give rise to new issues and challenges to multilateral fora and mechanisms, including ASEM. Unprecedented developments of globalisation and information technology are deepening interdependence among all players and promoting linkages at all levels. At the same time, global challenges are growing with greater complexity and cannot be dealt with by any individual country or region. The Fourth Industrial Revolution coming to the fore, new mindsets, policies and practices are taking shape in ways that foster green, sustainable and innovative development, and closely link economic growth to development.
- At this important juncture, it is time for ASEM to map out a vision so as to assume its responsive and responsible global leadership role, fostering dialogues to promote peace, security and stability for sustainable and inclusive development in our two regions and the world as a whole. Recommendations for a new direction should be built upon and in continuation of past achievements and should be ambitious, strategic, and practical. It should be aspirational, but sufficiently attainable enough to underpin an agenda for ASEM to respond more effectively to challenges and address the most pressing issues in the coming decade and ensure ASEM continues to contribute to building a peaceful and prosperous Asia and Europe.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To reflect on the achievements of ASEM cooperation over the past 25 years and share lessons learnt in strengthening the Europe-Asia relations
- To assess new and emerging trends in the global and regional landscapes that may impact ASEM's role and future cooperation

- To identify ASEM's direction and main areas of cooperation, including existing ASEM areas of cooperation that extend beyond 2021
- To build collective understanding, increase awareness, and enhance collaborations among multistakeholders in Asia and Europe to better engage in and support the ASEM process

## **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The outcome of the event will be a compiled and comprehensive list of ideas, concrete measures and recommendations to promote Asia and Europe cooperation in the coming years and is expected to be presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit.

## **DATE AND FORMAT**

The Dialogue is scheduled to be held in a hybrid format of virtual and physical meeting, in the afternoon of 22 June 2021 in Ha Noi.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The Dialogue is expected to attract approximately 150 online and offline speakers and delegates, including a number of ASEM Foreign Ministers (previous and current), ASEM SOM leaders, Ambassadors from ASEM member countries in Viet Nam, senior policy-makers, researchers, practitioners, universities, businesses, related regional and international organizations and other stake holders.

## **CO-SPONSORS**

ASEM members are invited to co-sponsor the initiative.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Mr. PHAM Binh Nam

Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Tel: (84-4) 3799 5756; Fax: (84-4) 3799 5769; Email: [asemmofvietnam@gmail.com](mailto:asemmofvietnam@gmail.com)