

**REPORT BY MS. M. BATCHIMEG, MEMBER OF STATE GREAT HURAL  
(PARLIAMENT) OF MONGOLIA AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE PANEL  
DISCUSSION II: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE  
22 APRIL 2016**

Honorable Chair,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to extend my sincere welcome to my beautiful country at the heart of Asia. For us, for Mongolian Parliamentarians, it is great honor to have you all in our capital city, Ulaanbaatar. Mongolia is honored to host both the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Asia-Europe Meeting and Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting. About six months ago we hosted another international parliamentary meeting here: the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Meeting. More than 330 members of Parliaments from 49 countries gathered in our capital.

The theme of our Panel is "Partnership for the Future". At this panel we had very open and lively discussions and debates.

We had two guest speakers:

Mr. D. Terbishdagva, MP from the Mongolian Parliament

Mr. R. Szarnecki, MP of the European Parliament

I would like to hereby introduce the summary of our discussions. Under this important and comprehensive topic, the following views were expressed:

**1. 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASEM**

Participants highlighted the commemoration of 20th anniversary of ASEM and noted the progress that has been made within the last 20 years. Our colleagues from China, Thailand, and the European Parliament reiterated the importance of encouraging informal contact and cooperation between the ASEM Partners and emphasized the need to inject pragmatism to the ASEM process in order to translate proceedings from ASEM into tangible outcomes.

## **2. ASEM's 3 PILLARS & ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

Reflecting on the ASEM's three pillars of equal importance, many colleagues emphasized that trade and investment is crucial for Asia-Europe connectivity and cooperation and thereby proposed to take systematic steps towards revitalizing ASEM's economic pillar.

Colleagues from Pakistan, Indonesia and other ASEM partners proposed to institutionalize connectivity by eliminating trade barriers, streamlining flow of investment, encouraging public-private partnerships. Recognizing the socio-economic potential of the two regions, Indian colleagues called for exploring the synergistic compatibility between the engines of growth in emerging markets, the human resource potential of Asia and the industrial and technological capabilities of Europe. In the context of global partnerships, several colleagues reiterated their commitment to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Underscoring the economic potential of Asia and Europe, our Chinese colleagues encouraged practical cooperation through a balanced, systematic approach building on ASEM three pillars.

## **3. INCLUSIVENESS**

Underscoring the importance of the principles of inclusiveness, colleagues from Italy and Spain highlighted the importance of mainstreaming involvement of NGOs, youth organizations, and other stakeholders as well as furthering gender equality, women's empowerment, and people-to-people exchange.

## **4. CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Determined to strengthen the Parliamentary dimension of ASEM and deepen the areas of parliamentary cooperation, Hungarian colleagues emphasized the significance of developing further capacity-building programs and more day-to-day connections between ASEP Parliamentarians would result in deeper cooperation and mutual understanding among the people. Further, colleagues from the European Parliament proposed a mechanism in order to ensure continuity of monitoring and scrutiny of ministerial activities and to widen mutual networking and knowledge-sharing between the stakeholders.

## **5. TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY**

Highlighting the need to bolster the security in Asia and Europe in the face of issues of common concern, colleagues from Japan, Norway, Vietnam, the European Parliament, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Russia encouraged cooperation among ASEM Partners in addressing terrorism, forced displacement of people, maritime security, and disaster prevention.

Further, Russian colleagues called for a security architecture that would account for equal partnership and harmony of interests.

## **6. GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY**

Needless to say, today we all can agree that rule of law is a universal value that is appreciated by all of us. In terms of Asia-Europe cooperation, rule of law is essential to further promoting connectivity between the two continents.

## **7. PARLIAMENTARIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE**

Recognizing the need to strengthen the Parliamentary dimension of ASEM, colleagues from Switzerland expressed their concern over the role of Parliamentarians in the international forums including ASEM and emphasized that ASEP is not a platform for discussing regional conflicts.

Similar to our Swiss colleagues, Mongolia appreciates the informality of ASEP and ASEM and thereby encourages Parliamentarians, as direct representatives of their people to continue engaging in free discussion unencumbered by diplomatic rules.