



FIRST ASEM RECTORS' CONFERENCE:

ASIA – EUROPE HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

**„Between Tradition and Reform:
Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads“**

27-29 October 2008

Henry Ford Building • Freie Universität Berlin

HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities



FIRST ASEM RECTORS' CONFERENCE

Asia – Europe Higher Education Leadership Dialogue

“Between Tradition and Reform: Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads”

Monday, 27 October 2008

10:00 h **Welcome and Introduction to Freie Universität Berlin**

The Strategic Development of FU Berlin

- Professor Dr Dieter Lenzen (*President, Freie Universität Berlin*)

12:00 h Lunch Break

13:30 h **Information Update Session**

Group I: Recent Trends in Higher Education in Asia

- Chair: Professor Dr Ion Panzaru (*Rector, University of Bucharest, Romania*)
- Input: Professor Hiroshi Mizubayashi (*Vice-President, Tsukuba University, Japan*)
Professor Dzulkifli Abdul Razak (*Vice-Chancellor, University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia*)

Group II: Recent Trends in Higher Education in Europe

- Chair: Professor B.B. Bhattacharya (*Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India*)
- Input: Patricia Pol (*Vice-President, Université Paris-Est*)
Professor Dr Federico Gutiérrez-Solana Salcedo (*Rector, Universidad de Cantabria, Spain*)

14:30 h **Group I + II: Information Update on the ASEM Process**

- Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Khanh (*Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation*)

Group I + II: Information on the Set-Up of an ASEM Studies Curriculum

- Professor Dr Ra Jong-Yil (*President, Woosuk University, South Korea*)

15:30 h **Berlin Guided City Tour**

18:30 h **Coordination Meeting of Speakers and Chairs**

19:30 h **Welcome Dinner**

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

9:30 h **Welcome and Conference Opening**

Welcome and Opening Statement

- Professor Dr Dieter Lenzen (*President, Freie Universität Berlin and Vice-President International, German Rectors' Conference (HRK)*)

ASEM: Europe and Asia in Dialogue for a Strategic Partnership in Higher Education Cooperation

- Christoph Ehrenberg (*Head of Division 2, Federal Ministry of Education and Research*)

Achieving Equity through Higher Education – Within ASEAN and between Asia and Europe

- Dr Soeung Rathchavy (*Deputy Secretary-General, ASEAN*)

Stocktaking: The Role of Higher Education in the ASEM Process

- Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Khanh (*Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation*)

10:45 h Coffee Break

11:15 h **Higher Education Cooperation between Asia and Europe**
An Asian Perspective on Higher Education Cooperation between Asia and Europe

- Professor Dr Binglin Gu (*President, Tsinghua University, P.R. China*)

A European Perspective on Higher Education Cooperation between Asia and Europe

- Professor Pierre de Maret (*Member of the Board, European University Association*)

11:45 h **Panel Talk:**
The Universities' Response to the Results of the ASEM Ministerial Meeting

Panelists:

- Professor Pierre de Maret (*Member of the Board, European University Association*)
- Professor Dr Binglin Gu (*President, Tsinghua University*)
- Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Khanh (*Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation*)
- Professor Dr Dieter Lenzen (*President, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Susanne Burger (*Head of Section 214-EU Education, Federal Ministry of Education and Research*)
- Dr Soeung Rathchavy (*Deputy Secretary-General, ASEAN*)

13:00 h **Group Photo Session**
 Followed by Lunch Break

14:00 h **Working Group Discussions on Development of Higher Education Systems in Asia and Europe**
Working Group A: Governance and Management of Universities
Working Group B: Competition and Cooperation
Working Group C: Impact of Rankings and other Quality Indicators on Quality Assurance in Higher Education

15:30 h Coffee Break

16:00 h **Panel Discussion on Development of Higher Education Systems in Asia and Europe – Reports from the Working Groups**

The Development of Higher Education Systems in Europe and Asia – Similarities and Differences

- Professor Dr Futao Huang (*Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University*)

Panel Discussion with

- Professor Dr Emerlinda R. Roman (*President, University of the Philippines*)
- Professor Dr Ulrich Radtke (*Rector, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany*)
- Professor James Browne (*President, National University of Ireland, Galway*)
- Professor Dr Futao Huang (*Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University*)

17:30 h End of First Conference Day

19:30 h Evening Reception

The Westin Grand Hotel · Friedrichstraße 158-164 · 10117 Berlin

Dinner Speech

- Professor Dr Margret Wintermantel (*President, German Rectors' Conference*)

WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2008

8:45 h **Morning Coffee and Opening Statement**

The Internationalisation of the European Higher Education Area – New Prospects for Cooperation with Asia

- Professor Dr Stefan Hormuth (*President, University of Gießen and President, DAAD*)

9:30 h **Working Group Discussions on Asia-Europe Higher Education Cooperation**

Working Group D: Strategic University Cooperation in Europe and Asia

Working Group E: Research Cooperation between Asia and Europe

Working Group F: The Future of ASEM Higher Education Cooperation

11:00 h Coffee Break

11:30 h **Panel Discussion: Setting the Agenda for Asia-Europe Higher Education Cooperation**

Panelists:

- Professor Seyed Hasnain (*Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, India*)
- Professor Carla Locatelli (*Vice-Rector, University of Trento, Italy*)
- Bergthora Snaebjornsdóttir (*Academic Affairs Committee, European Students' Union*)
- Peter Greisler (*Deputy Director General for Higher Education, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany*)
- Professor Dr Supachai Yavabrabas (*Director, SEAMEO-RIHED*)

13:00 h **Outlook and Closing Words**

- Professor Dr Mai Trong Nhuan (*Rector, Vietnam National University Hanoi, Vietnam*)



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The First ASEM Rectors' Conference marks a new step in ASEF's efforts to contribute to the development of Asia-Europe cooperation in higher education. The inaugural conference aimed to discuss higher education policy issues, such as governance and university management, quality assurance in higher education, and trends in education and research cooperation between the two regions.

This publication contains the presentations and discussions given and held in the workshop sessions at the conference and reveal how the issues were extensively addressed, thereby enabling both sides to learn from the experience of European and Asian higher education leaders, players and stakeholders, ranging from university presidents, to government officials, through to international experts from international institutions, etc.



It is worth noting that the participants adopted the Conference Recommendations at the end of the two and a half day meeting. It lays out four important points relating to ASEM higher education cooperation efforts: (1) enhanced frameworks for ASEM higher education policy dialogue and cooperation; (2) student and researcher mobility within ASEM countries; (3) research collaboration; and (4) incentives and support for ASEM higher education cooperation. The policy document will be tabled for endorsement by the 2nd ASEM Conference of Ministers Responsible for Education to be held in Hanoi on 14 and 15 May 2009.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation for the dedication and valuable contributions made by all the participants to this inaugural ASEM Rectors' Conference. Our special thanks also go to all ASEF's partners in this important project: the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for providing political and financial support for this new initiative; the German Rectors' Conference for generously rendering its technical and administrative support as well as its cooperation in respect of content; and the strong support and cooperation provided by the ASEAN University Network (AUN), the European University Association (EUA), and the Freie Universität Berlin as the host for this conference. Thank you all for your contribution to making this project truly productive and successful.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Khanh
(Deputy Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation)



The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was initiated to increase mutual understanding and enhance collaboration between Asia and Europe. Over the past twelve years, ASEM has served as an active multilateral channel for communication between the two regions. The First ASEM Rectors' Conference marked a significant step on the way towards creating the Asia-Europe Colloquy Series in the education sector. University leaders met to discuss transversal

higher education policy questions, and especially trends in education and research cooperation between universities in Asia and Europe.

The First ASEM Rectors' Conference was organised in a joint effort by the Asia-Europe-Foundation (ASEF), the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), the European University Association (EAU) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN). The conference was hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin, in Berlin, Germany from 27 to 29 October 2008 with the support of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The theme of the colloquium is "Between Tradition and Reform: Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads".

Ninety-eight Asian and European leaders from higher education institutions in 24 ASEM countries gathered to discuss higher education policy issues. The First ASEM Rectors' Conference adopted the Conference Recommendations on important points relating to higher education cooperation efforts between Asia and Europe. The Recommendations will be submitted to the Ministers of Education for endorsement at the 2nd ASEM Education Ministers Meeting to convene in Hanoi, Vietnam in May 2009.

The ASEAN University Network (AUN) encompasses 21 leading universities in ASEAN countries, and was established under the Charter signed by the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Higher Education. It operates under the umbrella of ASEAN. AUN aims to accelerate the development and solidarity of the ASEAN region with a collaborative programme involving ASEAN countries and ASEAN dialogue partners, namely, the People's Republic of China, the European Union, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Hence, the ASEAN University Network is one of the most important mechanisms for advancing ASEM higher education cooperation. All AUN member universities are renowned as exceptional academic institutions in ASEAN countries. Hence, they realise the importance of weaving a network that aims to reach the highest standards in higher education, both regionally and internationally. They also attach importance to enhancing close collaboration with dialogue partners in Europe so as to efficiently and productively turn the issues presented to the ASEM Ministry of Education into concrete actions so as to develop good global citizens, sustainable social development, and thereby ensure that peace shall prevail.



Professor Nantana Gajasen (*Executive Director of the ASEAN University Network*)

2008 was a promising year for Europe-Asia higher education and research relations. The first ever ASEM Conference of Ministers Responsible for Education, held in Berlin on 5 and 6 May 2008, launched the 21st Century Partnership for Education, an ambitious attempt to enhance cooperation and exchange between the two regions. This First ASEM Rectors' Conference was not only conceived as an immediate follow-up and response to the Ministerial Conference, but also as a means of laying the groundwork for concerted government-stakeholder dialogue in the coming years through the launch of the ASEM University Platform.



The European University Association (EUA) is very much committed to these initiatives, as it enhances exchange and debate on the development of higher education systems and extends cooperation opportunities for European and Asian university partners. In response to the concrete priorities and needs expressed by European universities, EUA is engaging increasingly in global dialogue and cooperation with partner organisations around the world, both to promote the attractiveness of Europe and to keep abreast with international developments affecting higher education institutions worldwide. It has established working relations with partner institutions and organisations throughout Asia, and is also the lead party in the EU-Asia Higher Education Platform Project (EAHEP), an initiative by the European Commission's Asia Link Programme which aims to promote Asia-Europe higher education cooperation through networking and promotional activities. This initiative is being carried out in parallel to the recent strides made under the ASEM process and will hopefully provide fruitful and complementary bi-regional

dialogue on specific themes. Therefore, EUA welcomes the 21st Century Partnership as an opportunity for enhancing inter-regional understanding and cooperation through strong and sustainable inter-regional dialogue processes between university representatives, and with ASEM governments.

EUA would like to express its gratitude to all the conference speakers and participants, and to extend its special thanks to all the partners and supporters that have been so crucial in taking the dialogue process to the next level, namely: the Asia-Europe-Foundation, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the German Rectors' Conference, the ASEAN University Network, and the Freie Universität Berlin.

EUA looks forward eagerly to the next meeting and to the continual growth of this important platform.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lesley Wilson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lesley Wilson
(Secretary-General of the European University Association)

German higher education institutions are open to the world. Education and training for global citizenship and research com-

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mitted to the values of a civil society and to the generation of new knowledge for society are at the core of a university's mission. Hence, the universities of the future are universities in the world and for the world. Successful, effective and sustainable internationalisation will depend, first and foremost, on the university understanding itself as a global institution.

The German Rectors' Conference, in its capacity as the Voice of the German Universities, has always emphasised the importance of higher education's international dimension. We have always been – and still are – actively engaged in facilitating international collaboration for our member institutions. The HRK fulfils its responsibilities – to safeguard its members' interests and to deliver operational services – by advising and supporting its member higher education institutions in the process of internationalisation.

Universities in Asia and Europe do indeed find themselves today standing at the crossroads between aiming to maintain their valuable heritage and tradition while at the same time adapting to the changes of today and rising to the challenges of the future. As Asia and Europe emerge at global level as two major players in the field of higher education, universities in both regions need to adjust their development and internationalisation strategies in order to respond to these changes.

In this context of competition and cooperation, establishing mutually beneficial links in research and teaching is not always easy. Common interests need to be defined and win-win situations need to be created. Nonetheless, we have come a long way. Some 1,500 cooperative ties already exist between Asian and German universities, for instance. Long-term partnerships between Asian and European higher education institutions serve as permanent bridges between our two regions. The First ASEM Rectors' Conference constitutes an important step towards both further intensifying Asia-Europe higher education cooperation as well as establishing a sustainable higher education dialogue platform to define a common agenda for universities in the two regions.

The HRK is proud of its partnership with the Asia-Europe-Foundation, the ASEAN University Network, the European University Association, and the Freie Universität Berlin in launching the First ASEM Rectors' Conference. I sincerely thank all our partners for the excellent cooperation and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for its financial support.



Professor Dr Margret Wintermantel
(President of the German Rectors' Conference)

The Freie Universität Berlin is a leading research university. It is one of nine German universities that succeeded in meeting all the criteria for the three funding lines of the Excellence Initiative. It now receives additional funding to develop its Institutional Strategy. Thus, the Freie Universität is in a position to take its place as an "International Network University" in the global competition between universities. Its Institutional Strategy focuses on three core areas: cluster development, international exchange, and graduate studies. The development and assessment of research projects takes place in three major fields: area studies, humanities, and life sciences.



For many years, the Freie Universität Berlin has enjoyed close relations with universities in Asian countries. The first cooperation agreements were signed with universities in Japan and China, followed by universities in Thailand and South Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan and India. Today, good relations are maintained with 46 universities in 13 Asian countries. The Freie Universität Berlin has opened branch offices in Beijing and New Delhi to intensify academic cooperation with China and India. It regularly organises conferences on comparative studies in German and Japanese law. It coordinates the activities of the Center for German Studies in Beijing. The Confucius Institute at the Freie Universität achieves outstanding results.

This is one of the reasons why the First ASEM Rectors' Conference on the topic "Between Tradition and Reform: Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads" was held in Berlin at the Freie Universität. As one of the leading universities in Germany and Europe, the Freie Universität with its Asian expertise, provided the ideal venue for lively European-Asian dialogue. The many talks held with ASEM experts provided the Freie Universität with a great deal of inspiration on its path towards becoming an international network university. Both the exchange of experience with partner universities and the creation of new contacts proved to be very important for the Freie Universität.

I would therefore like to express my gratitude to all the partner institutions and organisations for the commitment and creativity they contributed to the overwhelming success of this meeting. I look forward to the next ASEM Rectors' Conference which will successfully continue the Asian-European dialogue that was launched in Berlin.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Lenzen".

Univ.-Professor Dr Dieter Lenzen
(President of the Freie Universität Berlin)



CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Freie Universität Berlin • Berlin, Germany • 27-29 October 2008

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Introduction

The First ASEM Rectors' Conference was held at the Freie Universität Berlin from 27 to 29 October 2008. It attracted some 100 university leaders as well as representatives of ASEM¹ higher education institutions, networks and organisations at the highest level.

Building on previous successful initiatives, notably the 1st and 2nd AUNP Rectors' Conferences and ASEF's ASEM Education Hub (AEH) Colloquy Series, the conference was jointly organised by the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), the European University Association (EUA), the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and the Asia-Europe-Foundation (ASEF), supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin.

Discussions at the conference focused on the development of European and Asian higher education systems and on strategic university cooperation in and between the two regions. In this context, conference participants took note of the conclusions drawn by the ASEM Conference of Ministers Responsible for Education, held in Berlin on 5 and 6 May 2008, acknowledged by the ASEM7 Summit of Heads of State and Government that was held in Beijing on 24 and 25 October 2008.

After the conference, the ASEM University Rectors and Presidents conveyed the following considerations and recommendations to the ASEM Ministers Responsible for Education to accelerate the process of higher education dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe and so support the strategic partnership between the two regions. It should be understood as an initial contribution made by higher education leaders in Asia and Europe to the emerging ASEM Education Process, and, hopefully, as the start of concerted dialogue between governments and the higher education sectors.



¹ Countries that participate in the Asia-Europe Ministerial Meetings – involving 27 European Union Member States, the European Commission as well as 16 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat.



II. Enhancing ASEM Higher Education Dialogue and Cooperation

The conference participants recognised the high potential for enhanced dialogue and closer cooperation between the higher education sectors of the two regions. It was found that although they were subject to different environments, universities in both regions are facing similar challenges, resulting notably from the combined influences of increasing institutional autonomy, competition, diversification and globalisation, opportunities for regional integration processes, changing societal demands vis-à-vis higher education, increased competition for academic talent and skilled labour, and an increasing diversity of student populations. These challenges, while daunting for the individual university, open up far-reaching prospects for intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation.

1) The ASEM University Leaders' Response to the ASEM Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Education (EMM)

University leaders from Asia and Europe

- welcome the Ministers' decision to set up a Strategic Asia-Europe Education Partnership for the 21st Century involving stakeholders at all levels so as to strengthen ASEM dialogue and cooperation in the field of education
- welcome the commitment by the ASEM Education Ministers to meet on a regular basis as a timely initiative that can be expected to produce tangible benefits for multilateral research and education cooperation between the institutions of both regions and for the internationalisation of their higher education sectors



- support the issues agreed by the ministers and look forward to exploring prospects for advancing their development and implementation. In particular they
 - support the EMM conclusions on the need to improve the information and visibility of the higher education systems of both regions
 - confirm, in particular, the need to establish a high-level working group aimed at “improving the framework conditions for bi-regional exchange”²
 - support the EMM suggestions regarding the reciprocal mobility of students, academic staff and researchers, life-long learning and industry collaboration.

University leaders consider it to be of prime importance that

- stakeholders at national and regional level, including students, are consulted on the programming and monitoring of cooperation initiatives;
- universities are fully involved with regard to their complex missions and manifold tasks that extend far beyond higher education and research, and have an important effect on the social and economic development of countries and regions as well as on other areas of education; and that
- measures are realised in a medium to long-term perspective, together with a mechanism for adjusting and improving programmes.

² As stated in the ASEM Education Ministers Meeting “Chair’s conclusions”



2) Establishment of an ASEM University Platform

In order to take up the Ministers' offer to collaborate on these and other issues, the ASEM University Rectors and Presidents decided to establish a joint platform for discussing and defining stakeholder positions and for facilitating a constructive and concerted dialogue on higher education policy and collaboration development between the two regions.

The 1st ASEM Rectors' Conference is perceived as a first important step in this direction, laying the ground for a platform to enable exchange and collaboration between higher education leaders in Asia and Europe, and in formulating policy goals for the ASEM Education Process. It should be continued on a regular basis (every two years), underpinned and followed up by workshops, roundtables and other initiatives serving the creation and exchange of knowledge and good practices.

A permanent office for the ASEM Rectors' Conference, located within the existing ASEF's ASEM Education Hub Secretariat in Singapore,³ with the support of the European University Association (EUA, Brussels) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN, Bangkok) as institutional partners, will take on the secretarial tasks and the representative duties of the education communities of both regions within the ASEM policy dialogue process. Individual institutions and national university organisations would volunteer as hosts and provide the venue, practical organisation and co-funding of events and activities.

The annual AEH Advisory Committee Meeting will provide the opportunity to set the agenda and finalise policy recommendations.

As a result of the First ASEM Rectors' Conference, ASEM university leaders would like to convey to the ASEM Ministers Responsible for Education the following recommendations for consideration and endorsement at their next meeting in Hanoi in 2009.

³ Without prejudice to the other tasks and missions of the ASEM Education Hub

III) Recommendations

1) Towards an Enhanced Framework for ASEM Higher Education Policy Dialogue and Cooperation

Conference participants recommend the establishment of a strong and sustainable framework for Asia-Europe Higher Education Dialogue and Cooperation, which would

- provide an interface for discussion between decision-makers in ministries and in Asian and European higher education associations and institutions (ASEM University Platform)
- contribute to enhancing the exchange of information and knowledge of higher education and research policies, inter alia, by commissioning surveys and studies, such as the launch of a regular report on higher education in Asia, modelled on the EUA's European Trends report
- contribute to identifying strategic and operational priorities and to the development of stakeholder-driven programmes and the means to achieve them.

In proposing a structured dialogue between the ASEM University Platform and the ASEM Education Ministers, University Rectors and Presidents from Asia and Europe wish to recall the European Bologna Process as an example of a successful dialogue process, which, in less than a decade, has developed into a major higher education modernisation initiative, involving 46 countries, with a considerable positive impact on European higher education institutions, while respecting the national sovereignty of the participating countries and strengthening the autonomy of the higher education institutions. The close and structured involvement of higher education stakeholders represents one of the key features of the Bologna Process. While the Asia-Europe perspective is, of course, different to that of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), some of the lessons learnt from the European and





Asian integration processes could be considered when designing and implementing the mechanism of an ASEM government - stakeholder process. In this respect, the emergence of a widely representative stakeholder organisation on the Asian side should be pursued.

2) Mobility within ASEM Countries

University leaders support the idea of involving stakeholders in the high-level working group on ASEM mobility, proposed by the EEM, in order to develop concrete strategies, goals and means for the enhancement of inter-institutional mobility between the two regions. This should comprise, in particular, actions for ensuring funding and other incentives for institutions and movers, for enhancing quality assurance and recognition as important pre-requisites for successful exchange and cooperation, and also measures aimed at improving regulations on visas, residence and work permits, and pension rights and entitlements.

As immediate priorities it is suggested that means are devised for enhancing:

- university partnerships as key drivers for improving quality mobility, particularly with regard to tailored exchange programmes for doctoral and postdoctoral candidates, for strengthening institutional links in research and teaching, and for administrative staff, so as to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of institutional links
- the transparency of national systems and higher education institutions, through concrete progress in the recognition of qualifications, cooperation in the areas of qualification frameworks, learning outcomes and quality assurance;



3) Research Collaboration

University Rectors and Presidents agreed that an Asia-Europe partnership in higher education can only be successful if it includes research as one of the universities' core tasks, since this is an important driver for economic and social development.

Ministers are therefore invited to

- give full attention to encouraging university-based reciprocal research collaboration
- promote the development of joint research clusters, especially in priority areas identified by the ASEM7 Summit
- especially support research clusters as a means of enhanced research cooperation
- encourage joint research in area studies, notably in EU or Asian research centres, focusing, amongst other topics, on the role of higher education institutions in Asian and European societies and to
- further explore the opportunities for establishing a larger framework for research cooperation and research funding on the basis of inter-governmental agreements, and in particular to consider the recent communication from the European Commission on "A strategic Framework for International Science and Technology Cooperation". (http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com_2008_588_en.pdf).



4) Incentives and Support for ASEM Higher Education Cooperation

University Rectors and Presidents are convinced that the realisation of the Asia-Europe Education Partnership for the 21st Century and its concrete elements, as proposed by the EMM, require incentives, and in particular funding.

They therefore recommend

- setting up an institutional partnership programme, similar to past programmes, such as Asia-Link and AUNP, as complements to other current schemes
- providing financial support for networking activities by higher education institutions and organisations to underpin partnerships and to enhance the sustainability and dissemination of their outcomes.

IV. Outlook: Next ASEM Ministerial Meeting

The Conference will forward its recommendations to the 2nd ASEM Education Ministers Meeting, to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in May 2009 for their consideration, and re-affirms its willingness to enter into an interactive and sustained dialogue process with the ASEM Ministers Responsible for Education.





WORKING GROUPS



Working Group A

“Governance and Management of Universities”

Input:

Professor Soo Young Kwon
(Vice-President, Korea University, South Korea)
Professor Dr Dorte Salskov-Iversen
(Vice-President, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)

Chair:

Professor Alain Beretz *(President, University Louis Pasteur, France)*

Key statements:

- The dramatic changes in both the Asian and the European higher education systems in the past decade have resulted in new concepts of university governance and management.
- Increased university autonomy and a proactive approach to university governance, based on responsibility, accountability and transparency, are key elements.
- Autonomy, flexibility and a long-term institutional vision are unanimously defined as essential prerequisites for excellence in research and teaching.
- Accountability requires verification by external stakeholders, which can be implemented in various forms, such as external evaluation and peer review, supervision and/or advice provided by boards of trustees, national and international benchmarking, or rankings.
- The ASEM Rectors’ Conference can serve as a platform for exchanging examples of best practice in university governance and management between higher education leaders in Asia and Europe.



Working Group B

“Competition and Cooperation”

Input:	Professor Dr Ra Jong-Yil (<i>President, Woosuk University, South Korea</i>) Professor Tadeusz Luty (<i>President, Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland</i>)
Chair:	Dr Maurits van Rooijen (<i>Vice-President, University of Westminster, UK</i>)

Key statements:

- Higher education institutions in Europe and Asia have to play a proactive role in this era of globalisation. The emergence of a new social and economic environment leads to “glocalisation”. Universities can provide the highly skilled human resources needed for local, regional and global leadership.
- Both competition and cooperation provide the basis for achieving the universities’ mission of educating students for a global society and of doing research to advance society.
- Competition is not a value in itself. However, it can stimulate diversity and enhance the development of higher education institutions themselves as well as higher education systems as a whole.
- Universities in Europe and Asia have to cooperate and build strong and reliable alliances in order to jointly address crucial issues, such as university autonomy and governance, quality assurance in higher education, and brain drain vs. brain gain.
- A balanced, long-term approach pursued “on an equal footing” is required for strong win-win partnerships between universities in both regions.



Working Group C

“Impact of Rankings and other Quality Indicators on Quality Assurance in Higher Education”

- Input:** Professor Dr Sharifah Hapsah S. H. Shahabudin
(*Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*)
Professor Dr Jens Oddershedde (*Rector, University of Southern Denmark and President, Universities Denmark*)
- Chair:** Professor Sittichai Tudsri
(*Vice-President, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand*)

Key statements:

- University leaders in Asia and Europe tend to have a critical attitude towards rankings: “Not everything that is important is assessed and not everything that is assessed is important.” Furthermore, rankings are seen as driving universities worldwide in one and the same direction, regardless of local and regional specificities and needs.
- Universities have to acknowledge the fact that rankings are here to stay. Even though there is considerable doubt regarding the reliability of data of international rankings, they are commonly cited and impact relevant stakeholders, such as students and governments.
- Nevertheless, when taken “with a grain of salt”, rankings provide relevant data that can and should be used for internal quality enhancement. The careful interpretation of ranking results and a clear awareness for the uniformising effect of rankings are regarded as crucially important.
- A differentiation needs to be made between national and international rankings. National rankings are regarded as being more reliable and credible since they better reflect national realities.
- Independent, subject-based rankings and university-driven benchmarking initiatives are seen as alternatives to existing ranking models.



Working Group D

“Strategic University Cooperation in Europe and Asia”

Input:	Professor Katsuichi Uchida (<i>Vice-President, Waseda University, Japan</i>) Professor Mille Millnert (<i>Rector, Linköping University, Sweden</i>)
Chair:	Professor Seyed E. Hasnain (<i>Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, India</i>)

Key statements:

- Despite the existing competition between universities in Asia and Europe in attracting talented students and researchers, there is huge demand and ample opportunity for cooperation.
- Cooperation is never a one-way street. For long-term strategic partnerships, a balanced approach needs to be taken. Both sides have to benefit, with a focus on achieving reciprocity in the exchange of students and faculty or academic staff.
- Strategic university partnership has to be based on the academic potential and the specific institutional profiles of both partners, not on reputation. Cooperation has to be implemented at all institutional levels, from university executive via faculty and academic staff through to the level of the individual researcher.
- To achieve sustainable partnerships, the legal and social framework needs to be enhanced. Obstacles to the free mobility of students and researchers need to be removed and restrictive legal frameworks with regard to the establishment of joint degrees and joint PhD programmes need to be reformed.
- Platforms, such as the ASEM Rectors’ Conference, play an important role in triggering and enhancing long-term institutional cooperation between universities in both regions.



Working Group E

“Research Cooperation between Asia and Europe”

Input:	Professor Dr Sudjarwadi (<i>Rector, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia</i>) Professor Guisepe Silvestri (<i>Rector, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy</i>)
Chair:	Professor Dr Xian Xiao (<i>Vice-President, Yunnan University, China</i>)

Key statements:

- Since research is a top priority for higher education institutions in both regions, Asian and European universities need to sharpen their focus on this area of collaboration. They need to define mutual interests and look for matching funds to conduct joint research.
- Joint research clusters are a good opportunity for collaboration, especially when focusing on areas of common interest and topics of a global dimension, such as climate, energy and water.
- In the context of research collaboration, the inter-regional mobility of PhD candidates and research students needs to be increased.
- Within the scope of research collaboration, university – industry collaboration also needs to be improved. Legal and regulatory frameworks need to become more flexible and scientific information needs to be spread more easily.
- The ASEM Rectors’ Conference can be used as a platform for scanning existing networks, for collecting topics of mutual interest and for creating synergies. European programmes, and, in particular, those that provide funding, such as the European Research Council, might provide good opportunities for collaborative research.



Working Group F

“The Future of ASEM Higher Education Cooperation”

Input:

Kwek Puay Swan (*Director, European Union Centre, Singapore*)
Barbara Weitgruber (*Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research and Chair, Bologna Global Dimension Working Group*)
Br Armin A. Luistro FSC (*President, De La Salle University, Philippines*)
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Key statements:

- The perception of Asia and Europe in ASEM higher education cooperation is changing on both sides: from competitors to strategic partners. It is essential to continue building trust and to agree on the common goal of enhancing the academic and professional competence of university graduates as the core element in all activities and strategies.
- Student and researcher mobility between the two regions needs to become more balanced. Incentives, such as short-term visits, and investments in more structured and sustainable cooperation, e.g. joint programmes, will help to achieve this goal.
- Research collaboration needs to be enhanced. A joint research council can be convened to identify a common research agenda.
- Quality assurance and recognition is another area of cooperation. In both Asia and Europe, regional quality assurance and recognition initiatives are under way. These can be used as a basis for enhancing information exchange and cooperation in this area.
- The ASEM Rectors’ Conference has to be established as a sustainable platform for higher education cooperation between Asia and Europe. Information on the ASEM Rectors’ Conference as a platform for ASEM university cooperation needs to be widely disseminated.



ASEM CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION

**Education and Training for Tomorrow:
Common Perspectives in Asia and Europe
Berlin, 5 and 6 May 2008**

The 1st ASEM Conference of Ministers Responsible for Education was held in Berlin on 5 and 6 May 2008. Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in higher education by forging strategic partnerships and enhancing employability and lifelong learning, thereby bringing together education and the labour market. The following conclusions were adopted during the meeting:

Conclusions by the Chair¹

The first meeting of the Ministers responsible for education of the ASEM countries was held in Berlin on 5-6 May 2008.

The meeting was chaired by the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr. Annette Schavan, and supported by the President of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. The meeting was co-sponsored by China, Denmark and Japan. The discussion on the first day was focussed on strengthening cooperation in higher education by forging strategic partnerships. Exchanges of views on the second day concentrated on enhancing employability and lifelong learning by bringing together education and the labour market.

The Meeting congratulated Germany on having taken the initiative for this first meeting of ASEM Education Ministers and underlined the importance of a stable and productive dialogue, thus supporting the key role of education and training in each country's efforts towards economic and social development as well as in making globalisation a success for all parties concerned.

The Meeting recognised that:

- There is a growing need for more intensive relations and cooperation between Europe and Asia in a globalising world and stressed the increased economic interdependence of the two regions. ASEM plays a vital role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation among the European and Asian partners of the ASEM process.
- The ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting in Berlin is an important first step towards strengthening the dialogue and fostering cooperation between ASEM partners in the field of education and training. The two regions look back on a history of long and successful bilateral partnerships in science and education. Experience with cultural and academic diversity has created many opportunities for personal growth, has promoted tolerance and has reduced discrimination by helping to develop a global democratic culture. The knowledge of languages and cultures of the ASEM partners is considered important by the Meeting.

¹ As adopted by the ASEM Ministers Responsible for Education on 6 May 2008.

- Ensuring the quality and competitiveness of higher education systems and institutions is a key element for educating qualified and employable citizens and promoting economic growth in Asia and Europe. Higher education is therefore regarded as an important area of exchange and cooperation. The internationalisation of education in general, and of higher education in particular, is an important factor for making education systems and institutions more attractive and competitive worldwide.
- The visibility of and the information on European and Asian education systems and institutions still leave room for improvement in both regions. Obstacles that may prevent the extension of individual exchange and institutional partnerships must be defined and tackled. Structural cooperation (e.g. bilateral agreements, partnerships, joint study programmes and research projects, offshore activities) is crucial for creating sustainable links between European and Asian universities.
- In view of the rapid social and economic changes and demographic challenges in both regions, education systems have to deliver both broad general knowledge and labour-market related competences and skills. Close cooperation between education and industry at international, national, regional and local level is a core element for ensuring the employability of the young generation entering the workforce as well as the employability of older generations.

The Meeting agreed:

- To set up a strategic Asia-Europe education partnership for the 21st century, to strengthen the ASEM dialogue and cooperation in the field of education to include stakeholders at all levels and to convene a second Ministerial Meeting on Education in Vietnam in 2009.
- To send key messages from the Berlin Conference to the ASEM summits in Beijing for acknowledgment and to pass on the chair's conclusions to the Asia-Europe Higher Education Leadership Dialogue Meeting in Berlin in October 2008 for further discussion.
- To invite ASEM members to join an EU-Asia working group including Senior Officials and stakeholders from the education sector to identify the challenges connected with strengthening the mobility of students, teachers and researchers, and to make suggestions for improving the framework conditions for bi-regional exchanges with special regard to recognition of qualifications and degrees.
- To propose the establishment of a bi-regional forum involving stakeholders from the education and economic sector to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between education and industry at local, national and international level. A regular exchange of experience on how to promote knowledge, skills, and competences relevant to the labour market could thus be established.

- To continue to internationalise their education systems and to encourage the internationalisation of institutions, especially in higher education. The Meeting acknowledged the role of internationalisation processes in the field of higher education in both regions and expressed its interest in exchanging views and experiences between Asia and Europe.
- To encourage international educational mobility between both regions and to especially enhance more balanced exchanges of talented students, graduates and researchers by strengthening the potential of national, bilateral and multi-lateral mobility schemes (such as ASEM DUO and ERASMUS Mundus). Bi-regional exchanges, including foreign language learning, intercultural training and practical work experience, should be considered. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts of the European Commission and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) to enhance bi-regional people-to-people exchanges. Exchanges with less economically developed countries are encouraged.
- To promote all kinds of structural education cooperation among ASEM partners in both regions to increase sustainability. Special attention should be given to university partnerships and networks (e.g. AUN-SEED Net, ASEA and EURASIA-PACIFIC UNINETS) and to the joint development of study programmes (possibly with double or joint degrees) and common research projects. Joint off-shore activities, such as the organisation of summer schools, joint study programmes and the foundation of area study centres, could be of considerable value. The activities of the German Academic Exchange Service in this field could be a source of inspiration.
- To intensify EU-Asia cooperation in the field of lifelong learning. The Meeting encouraged the ASEM Lifelong Learning HUB to extend its network to all ASEM partners and to increase its research activities. Higher education institutions play a key role in lifelong learning, especially as regards the continuing education and further training of post-graduates and non-academics.
- To increase the visibility of the education systems and institutions of both regions by improving information and stimulating joint marketing initiatives. Existing transnational platforms for dialogue and information (as implemented by Asia-Link and ASEF) as well as existing marketing tools at international (e.g. European Higher Education Fairs in Asia) and national level should be used and developed further. Alumni and their networks are encouraged to contribute to the dissemination of information.

The Meeting welcomed

Vietnam's offer to host the next ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi in 2009 and encouraged all ASEM members to contribute to the preparation of this event.



PROFILE OF THE ORGANISING PARTNERS



The Asia-Europe-Foundation (ASEF) advances mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and to multiply knowledge about the possibilities of Asia-Europe cooperation. The establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focused on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations is the goal of the ASEF exchanges and various activities. ASEF acts as the civil society outreach of ASEM and interface between civil society and ASEM governments, and consequently contributes to the ASEM process by generating unique recommendations for officials' consideration. For further information, please visit our website: <http://www.asef.org>

The Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967 to strengthen ties and cooperation between countries in Southeast Asia, especially in terms of cultural, economic and social collaboration projects. The ASEAN University Network (AUN) was established in November 1995 with the signing of its Charter by the Ministers Responsible for Higher Education from ASEAN countries, the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the AUN by the Presidents/Rectors/Vice-Chancellors of the participating universities, and the formation of an AUN Board of Trustees, thereby extending ASEAN cooperation in the fields of higher education and human resource development. For further information, please visit our website: www.aun-sec.org



The European University Association (EUA) represents 800 higher education institutions and 34 national rectors' conferences in 46 countries, providing them with a unique forum for cooperating and keeping abreast with the latest trends in higher education and

research policies. EUA plays an important role in shaping the European higher education and research landscape, both as a consultative member in the Bologna process and through its contribution to EU research policy-making. For further information, please visit our website: www.eua.be



The Freie Universität Berlin is a leading research institution. It is one of nine German universities that succeeded in all three funding lines of the federal and Länder Excellence Initiative, thereby receiving additional funding for developing its Institutional Strategy. The Freie Universität can thus take its place as an “International Network university” in the global competition between universities. Its Institutional Strategy focuses on three core areas: cluster development, international exchange, and graduate studies. The development and assessment of research projects takes place within three major fields: area studies, humanities, and life sciences. For further information, please visit our website: www.fu-berlin.de

HRK German Rectors’ Conference

The Voice of the Universities

The German Rectors’ Conference (HRK) is the voluntary association of state and state-recognised universities and

other higher education institutions in Germany. It currently has 258 member institutions at which around 98% of all students in Germany are registered. The HRK is the political and public voice of the universities and serves as the forum for the higher education institutions’ joint opinion-forming process. The HRK addresses all topics relating to the responsibilities of higher education institutions: Research, teaching, studies, advanced continuing education and training, knowledge and technology transfer, international cooperation, and self-administration. For further information, please visit our website: www.hrk.de



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See you at the Second ASEM Rectors' Conference in Asia!

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ABOUT THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was initiated by the ASEM when leaders met in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1996. ASEM is an informal transregional platform for dialogue and cooperation between the two regions and has arisen out of mutual recognition of the fact that the relationship between Asia and Europe needed to be strengthened in light of the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.



The ASEM process is based on a partnership between equals and its activities are grouped into three pillars: political, economic and socio-cultural. The process brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Vietnam, plus the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission.

ASEM holds a Summit once every two years, alternately in Asia and in Europe. This is the highest decision-making level in the process. Besides the attendance of the Head of States, the Summit also features Ministers, the Head of the European Commission and other stakeholders. Apart from the Summit meetings, the ASEM process is carried forward through a series of ministerial and working-level meetings, plus a number of activities arising from it. (www.aseminfo-board.org)

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