



Concept Paper

16th ASEF University “Public Health and Vulnerable Groups: Access to Quality Health Care Services”

29 June – 10 July 2010
Łódź, Poland

Purpose

This concept paper aims to provide the general information of the 16th ASEF University (AU16) and seek for the inputs and recommendations, especially in terms of topics and speakers, from readers who can be also potential sponsors and supporters for the programme.

Introduction

Formerly known as the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Summer School, the ASEF University¹ is a flagship project of ASEF that aims at promoting inter-cultural exchanges among university students from Asia and Europe. This two-week academic programme that is held once a year at venues alternating between Asia and Europe, focuses on current developments in international relations and features lectures, workshops and academic excursions.

The course is an opportunity for up to 43 promising (under)graduate students to broaden their horizons and deepen their insight into contemporary international issues and their significance to Asia and Europe in a multi-cultural setting.

The partner host of the 16th ASEF University will be the Medical University of Lodz². As the biggest state medical university in Poland, the University comprises 9 faculties dealing with medical and medicine-allied disciplines, and employs 1300 research and didactic staff, including over 300 independent researchers.

Background Information

As a part of the overall activities of the ASEF Network for Public Health³ under its Thematic Working Group 3 (TWG3) on “Public Health Dialogue”, AU16 will be organised through an unprecedented format of collaborative programme management within ASEF. While People-to-People Exchange Department at ASEF remains the leading contact point for the overall management and organisational matters, the ASEF Network for Public Health commits its resources and networks to generate main contents and provide practical inputs such as drafting the curriculum and identifying speakers.

The specific objective to achieve under TWG3 is to enhance general public awareness on public health issues. As some of the core aspects that largely affect the health status of human beings and the maintenance of societies, it is crucial for the general public to improve their knowledge about

¹ Annex 1: ASEF University Programme Fact Sheet.

² <http://www.umed.lodz.pl/eng/>

³ 5-year (2009-2013) project funded by the Government of Japan. Annex 2: ASEF Network for Public Health Project Brief.

public health issues, decide and conduct appropriate behaviours, and form solidarity with others. Witnessing more harmful effects on social minorities, and vulnerable and at-risk populations, caused by past and present outbreaks of infectious diseases and various types of non-communicable and chronic diseases, the Network has selected the topic of 'Public Health and Vulnerable Groups' for activities for 2010 and 2011. Organising various programmes under this topic, ASEF will bring the added value to the collaboration between Asia and Europe on public health issues by sharing each other's experiences.

One of the positive aspects of organisation of AU16 in the context of public health is in its political relevance. Poland is one of the nine co-sponsor countries of the wider ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, of which the ASEF Network for Public Health is a part of two components. Therefore, it would be an additional political interest at the national level to cooperate with ASEF University on this particular topic, involving various ministries and sectors to maximise the communication effect of AU16.

Furthermore, AU16 will be held shortly before the 8th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM8) in Brussels in October 2010, and the topic of AU16 has strong connections to the general theme of ASEM8, which is on "Achieving greater wellbeing and more dignity for all citizens." The outcome of the University will serve as preliminary work for the ASEM8 Workshop on Public Health which will be organised within the framework of ASEF's "Connecting Civil Societies Conference," to take place right before ASEM8. The effective linkage between the AU16 topic and ASEM8 will offer an added dimension of significance and opportunity for ASEF, UMED, and Poland as a whole.

Programme Concept & Objectives

Public health is directly dealing with community health and the mission of public health is to fulfil society's interests in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy. There are three core public health functions: assess and monitor health of communities and populations at risk to identify health problems and priorities; formulate public policies to solve identified local and national health problems and priorities; and assure that all populations have access to appropriate and cost-effective care.

Having in mind the above three core functions, the main theme for AU16 is "Public Health and Vulnerable Groups: Access to Quality Health Care Services". This will enable the programme's participants to address public health issues from their point of view and explore possible approaches to tackle the barriers to health disparities in a way which encourages their contribution. The main objectives of the programme under this topic are as following:

- **To understand public health issues and challenges from perspectives of Asia and Europe**

Public health issues should be understood not only in relation to diseases or medicine but rather through a wide range of factors which affect health. Broadening a perspective on the public health issues will be achieved through:

- **Public health in terms of global governance and global crises.**
- **Regional approaches** towards health through policies, frameworks and practices, and their contribution to concerted action for third regions and countries.
- **'Whole of Society' approach** to tackle the health inequalities, which pays attention to critical interdependencies and complex inter-linkages between sectors.
- **Scenario-based multi-sectoral efforts** to plan and take responsibilities for health threats

- **To promote discussion on how reducing barriers to quality healthcare services can be addressed**

There are a number of socio-economic factors that impact on health and, for those belonging to the disadvantaged groups, these factors easily become obstacles to equal opportunities in access to health care services. Engaging in lively debate and interaction with speakers and fellow participants, the AU16 students will explore the issues of health inequalities addressed by various stakeholders, such as:

- **Human rights** perspective on health inequities.
- **Vulnerable groups and health inequalities** – migrants, ethnic minorities, different gender and age groups, people with disabilities, people with lower education and income, populations in poor living conditions etc.
- **Commitment of various stakeholders** that have an important role in health care services – national governments, local authorities, healthcare service providers, academic institutes, social welfare systems, business sectors, non-governmental/civil society organisations (NGOs/CSOs) etc.

- **To encourage young people to play an active role in promoting better health**

As soon-to-be core members that lead society, it is important for young people to play an active role in promoting the health through acquiring proper education on health, practicing what they learned, and sharing the best practices with others. The effective ways to empower the youth in this regard could be:

- Raising awareness of health issues and enhancing prevention of avoidable health risks through **formal/non-formal health education**.
- **Young people's participation in social discourses and activities** to raise their voices to influence the health of youth.
- **Health communication** – understanding the roles of media in health and making the best use of possibilities of, especially, new types of media.

From a series of lectures, panel discussions or trainings, each followed by interactive question & answer sessions and workshops, students will address the issues that they find most crucial and relevant for improving the access to quality health care services, and develop their own ideas and, ultimately, recommendations that will be channelled to the wider audience at multiple levels and sectors. In addition, the broadened spectrum of understanding and way-of-thinking for individual students and formation of solidarity through their combined efforts to tackle the issues of health inequalities will be parts of the intangible outcomes of the programme.

Curriculum (DRAFT)

Please note that below is a tentative curriculum and thus most of the individuals and organisations listed are also only suggestive. Additional or alternative topics and suggestion of speakers and organisations are greatly appreciated.

Main Objectives	Discussion Points	Potential Organisations/Speakers
<p>To understand public health issues and challenges from perspectives of Asia and Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global health governance ▪ Global health crises ▪ Implications of the financial crisis on health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Health Organization (WHO) ▪ Global Health Governance Study Group, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore ▪ Dr. Ilona Kickbusch ▪ Dr. Tikki Pang
	<p>Regional approaches to ensure and improve access to quality healthcare, and their influence on third regions and countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - regional cooperation on health ▪ Strategies towards health issues of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) ▪ European Union's public health policies ▪ Synergies of regional collaboration within and outside the regional organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Socio-Cultural Community Department of ASEAN Secretariat ▪ Health and Population Activities Technical Committee of SAARC ▪ Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (DG SANCO) of the European Commission ▪ Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
	<p>'Whole of Society' approach to tackle the health inequalities, with attention to critical interdependencies and complex inter-linkages between sectors that affect the health status</p>	<p>Representative of WHO or other United Nations agencies</p>
	<p>Scenario-based multi-sectoral efforts to plan and take responsibilities for health threats</p>	<p>Facilitator and participant of scenario-building workshops for ASEF Network for Public Health</p>

<p>To promote discussion on how reducing barriers to quality healthcare services can be addressed</p>	<p>Human rights perspective on health inequities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative of institutions/organisations dealing health issues with human rights perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law ✓ Human Rights Centre, University of Essex ✓ Department for the Right to Health, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)
	<p>Vulnerable groups and health inequalities</p> <p>Migrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definition and identification of migrants ▪ Challenges of healthcare services for migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Healthcare services for migrants in terms of social integration ✓ Communication barriers: e.g. different cultures and languages ✓ Increasing racial and ethnic representation in health professions ✓ Strengthening migrant communities regarding their better access to quality healthcare services ✓ Collaboration between migrant and host communities on health issues <p>Patients</p> <p>Other vulnerable groups (Ethnic minorities, different gender and age groups, people with disabilities, people with lower education and income, populations in poor living conditions etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Representatives of International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Headquarters, regional, or country offices ✓ Representative of migrant communities ✓ Representative as migrants coordinator from host communities ▪ Patients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Representatives of European Patients’ Forum ▪ Representatives of other vulnerable groups

	<p>Commitment of various stakeholders that have an important role in health care services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsibilities of national governments and local authorities ▪ Healthcare service providers' innovation in improving access and quality of healthcare services: e.g. professional hospital management ▪ Academic institutes' engagement in public health: employment, training, research, cooperation, networking etc. ▪ Business sectors' investment on research and development; corporate social responsibility ▪ Enhanced healthcare services through social welfare systems ▪ NGOs/CSOs and social entrepreneurs' involvement to improve access to quality healthcare services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative of national governments and local authorities ▪ Representative of hospitals or medical centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bumrungrad Hospital, Thailand ▪ Representative of academic institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK ✓ Medical University of Lodz, Poland ▪ Representative of business sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GlaxoSmithKline ✓ Sanofi-Aventis ▪ Representative of social welfare systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CPF (Central Provident Fund), Singapore ✓ MSA (Mutualité Sociale Agricole), France ✓ ILO (International Labour Organization) ▪ Representative of NGOs/CSOs & social entrepreneurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Aravind Eye Care System, India ✓ CARE International ✓ Heartfile, Pakistan ✓ International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) ✓ Riders for Health, UK ✓ Wemos Foundation, Netherlands
<p>To encourage young people to play an active role in promoting better health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal/non-formal health education for young people to raise their awareness of health issues and enhance prevention of avoidable health risks ▪ Young people's participation in social discourses and activities to raise their voices to influence the health of youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representatives of formal/non-formal health education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) ✓ European Network for Health Promoting Schools ✓ Association of teachers/school heads ✓ Association of parents ✓ Federation of youth clubs/organisations ▪ Representatives of organisations organising social

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health communication – understanding the roles of media in health and making the best use of possibilities of, especially, new types of media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Media’s role on channelling the authorities’ policies/plans as well as the public’s voices ✓ Opportunities for and barriers to new types of media’s role in public health: e.g. blogs/bloggers, citizen journalists, networking sites 	<p>discourses for youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ European Youth Forum ✓ Organiser of the July 2009 <i>Be Healthy, Be Yourself</i> Conference (DG SANCO of European Commission) ✓ WHO <p>▪ Health communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Health correspondents of media ✓ Communication officer of an organisation who incorporates new type of media into their communication activities: e.g. Facebook group page of European Commission’s DG SANCO (C4); WHO News on Twitter ✓ Power blogger and/or citizen journalist on the related health issues ✓ Representative of groups in social networking sites, dedicated to health issues
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Media

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The 16th ASEF University is a collaboration of:



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of ASEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focussed on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations.

Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEF reports to a board of governors representing the ASEM partners. ASEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. Since 1997, the Foundation has initiated projects engaging 14,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. ASEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries.

<http://www.asef.org>

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission.

<http://www.aseminfoboard.org>



The Medical University of Lodz is one of the largest medical schools in Central Europe and of established reputation, both in Poland and abroad. It was established on 1st October 2002, as a merger of the Medical Academy and the Military Medical Academy and now proudly continues the scientific, didactic and medical heritage of the prior medical schools.

The observed rapid progress in medical sciences and technology, together with our continuous efforts to achieve scientific success and didactic efficacy, are the factors, which ensure constant, quality-managed transformation of the University. The University's superior goal is to transfer medical knowledge at state-of-the-art level with improved responsiveness to objective needs of our students, teaching the skill of providing effective patient care under economical constraints of market-oriented hospitals and outpatient clinics.

Currently, over 8000 Polish students are getting their education within medical and medicine-related areas at various faculties. What is more, over 300 foreign students from various countries (USA, Canada, Taiwan, Sweden, Norway, Great Britain, Spain, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia) attend medical and dental courses.

<http://umed.lodz.pl>



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