



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

16TH ASEF University
"Public Health and Vulnerable Groups: Access to Quality
Health Care Services"



29 June – 10 July 2010
Lodz, Poland

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Asian and European students to discuss on access to quality health care services by vulnerable groups

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Medical University of Lodz (UMED) will jointly organise 16th ASEF University from 29 June to 10 July 2010 in Lodz, Poland, which will focus on "Public Health and Vulnerable Groups: Access to Quality Health Care Services".

Improving the health of the general population in both Asia and Europe includes responding to the health needs of the most vulnerable groups, which is among the most challenging of public health policies. Today, as the world is faced with crises on multiple fronts including food shortage, financial and economic crisis, climate change and pandemic influenza, the plight of vulnerable groups in any given population is in need of urgent attention. The ASEF University 2010 will be an important opportunity for top university students from both regions to give special attention to this issue. Experts from a wide range of sectors and countries will share their experience, best practices and concerns with these students. The outcome of their discussions will be included as recommendations to public health officials of Asia and Europe.

The 16th ASEF University will promote discussion on how barriers to quality healthcare can be reduced and raising awareness on public health issues. It also aims at encouraging young people to play an active role in promoting better health while emphasising the Asian and European perspectives on key global health challenges that often require international cooperation.

The ASEF University is a two-week intensive enrichment programme that is held once a year at venues alternating between Asia and Europe. The programme offers a unique opportunity for up to 43 promising undergraduates to broaden their horizon and deepen their insight into contemporary international issues and their significance for Asia and Europe in a multi-cultural setting. This edition is organised in line with overall activities of the ASEF Network for Public Health, initiated in May 2009 and funded by the Government of Japan. The Network aims to establish a working mechanism for bi-regional coordination and collaboration on public health issues with a particular attention to pandemics and infectious diseases.

Professor Pawel Gorski, Rector of UMED, and Ambassador Dominique Girard, Executive Director of ASEF, will open the event on 29 June 2010, at the Museum of Cinematography in Lodz. Honourable dignitaries from ASEM partner countries and institutions will also be invited.

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About the Organisers:



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 43 member states (Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, 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) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseinfoboard.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. umed.lodz.pl



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