



ASEF PRESS RELEASE

Public Briefing on scenarios for pandemic preparedness
17 January 2012

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Asia and Europe: are we prepared for future pandemics? Scenarios for pandemic preparedness

Stand-alone public and private sector mechanisms are not adequate to overcome future pandemic threats. The recent H1N1 pandemic and e. coli outbreak underscore the need for better preparedness for public health emergencies. In response, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) will organise a public briefing to share the ASEF-ASAP (Accurate Scenarios, Active Preparedness) scenarios for pandemic preparedness.

The event will be held on Thursday 2nd February 2012 at the Renaissance Brussels Hotel. This briefing is the first of its kind in Europe after the launch of the ASEF-ASAP scenarios to UN agencies, health service professionals, researchers and NGOs in Bangkok last year. The scenarios have since been employed by a number of groups, including airlines, travel authorities and airport hubs. The attendees will learn more about the application of the scenarios in developing multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness plans for Asia and Europe.

Mr. Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General of DG Sanco, European Commission will be the guest of honour for the occasion. Representatives from ASEM¹ embassies, academia, chambers of commerce, corporations, UN agencies and other international non-profit organisations and the media are invited to this event.

About ASEF-ASAP scenarios

Three scenarios were developed through a series of experts' workshops held in 2010. Unlike existing pandemic-related forecasts, the ASEF-ASAP scenarios are valuable in long-term planning for preparedness; furthermore, they benefit from multiple types of expertise. Health and non-health sector representatives from public and private organisations participated in these workshops. The scenarios address the uncertainties – and the range of possibilities – surrounding possible future pandemics. In this way, this unique analytical approach offers the possibility to develop strategies for greater pandemic preparedness and potentially more accurate responses.

About the event

On 2nd February 2012 (09.30 AM – 10.55 AM), the scenarios for pandemic preparedness will be shared through creative multi-media presentations. Visitors will experience the scenarios through short animated films and have access to more detailed information through a digital book. This will be followed by a panel discussion by speakers who were closely involved in the development of the ASEF-ASAP scenarios.

During the second half of the session (11.30 AM - 12.15 PM), ASEF facilitators will guide the participants through a tour of the scenarios. This 'Scenario Safari' will feature three rooms, each showcasing a scenario through audio-visual materials. During the Safari, ASEF facilitators will explain the story behind each scenario – how each scenario was developed, its consequences and how every scenario is vulnerable to possible pandemic threats.

Date: Thursday 2nd February 2012
Timing: 09.30 AM – 12.15 PM (Lunch provided from 12.15-1.15 PM)
Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Marriott
Rue du Parnasse 19 · Brussels, 1050 Belgium

Admission is free.

¹ ASEM – Asia Europe Meeting

Interested members of the public or media representatives willing to attend can register by contacting Smita at debasmita.dasgupta@asef.org

About ASEF Public Health Network

The ASEF Public Health Network is a participatory platform which encourages public health dialogue between Asia and Europe. The Network is a part of the Initiative of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, which was launched in May 2009 during the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

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About the Organisation:



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 46 member states (Australia, 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, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseinfoboard.org