

# Model ASEM Le Havre 2016

25-27 March 2016



## Chair's Statement of the Model Asia-Europe Meeting Le Havre 2016 (Model ASEM Le Havre 2016)

Le Havre, 25-27 March 2016

*“Migration, Employment and Entrepreneurship”*

1. The Model Asia-Europe Meeting Le Havre 2016 (Model ASEM Le Havre 2016) was held on 25 – 27 March 2016 in Le Havre, France. The meeting was attended by 55 Leaders<sup>1</sup>, including the Heads of Student Delegations, the Student Representative for the European Council, the Student Representative for the President of the European Commission and the Student Representative for the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The meeting was hosted by the Student Representative of the President of Mongolia and chaired by fellow student representatives of the European Commission.
2. Guided by the theme of “Migration, Employment and Entrepreneurship”, Model ASEM Leaders partook in fruitful discussions about a variety of issues concerning sharing their viewpoints on important international issues whilst focusing on the relations between Europe and Asia in the three pillars of economic, socio-cultural and political disciplines. Model ASEM Leaders recognized and confirmed the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. Model ASEM Leaders brought the importance of the Model ASEM to the forefront; highlighting its efficacy at acting as a forum within which to forge harmonious discourse leading to a united vision of ASEM.
4. Model ASEM Leaders mentioned and affirmed the successful results of the previous 5 Model ASEM simulations organized the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) held in 2004 and 2012 in Singapore, in 2007 in Manila (Philippines), and in 2008 in Beijing (China). They also endorsed the successful impact of the most recent Model ASEM organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in 2014 in Milan (Italy) held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit (ASEM10).

## **Asia-Europe Cooperation on Political and Employment issues: Facing migration crisis in Europe and Asia**

5. Model ASEM Leaders reaffirm the importance of the definitions of migration provided by the International Organization of Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
6. Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged that there were various causes for migration, and understood that different measures might be needed in Europe and Asia to handle each type of migration, based

---

<sup>1</sup> Leaders throughout this document refer to the Youth Delegates role-playing as the 53 ASEM Heads of Government at the Model ASEM Le Havre 2016.

on the countries of origin and the motivation for migration, to ensure the well-being of migrants.

7. Model ASEM Leaders urged that collective action be taken by countries directly and indirectly affected by the migration crisis, in keeping with their respective capacity and international obligation, towards the migration crisis and taking into account the multifaceted nature of this as a cross-continental issue
8. Model ASEM Leaders recognized the differing needs of irregular economic migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and will adequately address them.
9. Model ASEM Leaders recognize the existence of irregular economic migration and the necessity to deport these migrants to their countries of origin or a safe third country in an ethical, legal and dignified manner in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
10. Model ASEM Leaders understand the possibility of developing common lists of safe third countries in keeping with international standards and extending all possible aid to these countries.

## **Labour Migration**

11. Model ASEM Leaders emphasized ways to uphold the rights of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups globally and in their respective societies
12. Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged the need for transparency measures and legal mechanisms to counter irregular migration and to protect the rights of legal and internal migrants.

(a) Internal migrants: Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border <sup>2</sup>

13. Model ASEM leaders recognized the need to foster dialogue between countries of origin and host countries with regard to the return, the potential regularization, and future prevention of irregular labour migrants.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

14. Model ASEM Leaders recognize the necessity of upholding human rights standards in detention centers for irregular migrants.
15. Model ASEM Leaders believed ASEM members should collaborate to promote the mobility of skilled and unskilled workers internationally and domestically.
16. Model ASEM leaders recognize the need to collaborate in order to combat and prevent human trafficking while respecting existing mechanisms.

## **Asia-Europe Cooperation on Economic and Employment issues:**

### **Migration and Entrepreneurship in the Euro-Asia perspective**

17. Model ASEM Leaders noted the importance of entrepreneurship in sustaining economic growth and contributing to the employment of migrants in host countries. Furthermore, they acknowledged migrants' unique roles in contributing to innovation through their different cultural backgrounds.
18. Model ASEM Leaders recognized the issue of asymmetrical information and that the poor access to financial institutions may constitute great barriers to migrant innovation and entrepreneurship. Therefore they affirm that ASEM countries need to work on providing the language skills as well as the necessary knowledge and education to migrants and streamline the access to financial institutions for potential entrepreneurs.
19. Model ASEM Leaders encouraged future governmental initiatives in facilitating access to financial credits by migrants and relevant administrative procedures in order to increase cross-continental integration. They also acknowledge the importance of social security and protection as well as R&D investment.
20. Model ASEM Leaders underlined the need for closer and more dynamic cooperation between countries for the purpose of exchanging ideas and information regarding migrants and migration opportunities, sharing successful approaches to immigration and developing common strategies for the economic inclusion of migrants.
21. Model ASEM Leaders also acknowledge the importance of cooperation to facilitate financial flows among ASEM members.

## **Economic merits and demerits of Migration**

22. Model ASEM Leaders underlined the economic importance of migration in today's world, and noted that the challenges and benefits of migration fall unevenly among countries. Behind this are large variations in costs of integration and overall abilities of societies to absorb migrant groups.
23. Model ASEM Leaders recognized the plight of many origin countries of migration, and underscored the fact that emigration can lead to obstacles of development for many countries such as human capital flight. And they proposed strengthened dialogue between origin and receiving countries with the aim of curbing excessive flows of migrants from origin countries and improving their attractiveness to prospective emigrants.
24. Model ASEM leaders recognize the need to cooperate in order to maximize the sustainable level of employment to regionally viable levels, which could assist the integration of migrants.

## **Asia-Europe Cooperation on Socio-Cultural and Employment issues: Fostering Cultural Understanding and Peaceful Cooperation**

25. Model ASEM Leaders recognized the current ongoing refugee crisis to be one of the worst refugee crises since World War II; the situation has been exacerbated by the misfortune of inadequate negotiation and lack of unified leadership among European nations, recommending at the same time suggestions and cooperation with Asian member states of ASEM.
26. Model ASEM leaders stressed the importance of education in migrant integration, reducing the spread of xenophobic behaviors and fostering understanding between cultures and recommended stronger dialogue between ministers of education.
27. Model ASEM leaders proposed a coherent approach to education including early childhood education, adult education and e learning.
  - (a) Model ASEM leaders highlighted the importance of provision of language training and skills development service for better integration of migrants.
  - (b) Model ASEM leaders encouraged governments to support both government and non-government organizations responsible for education in their structural efforts to divert resources towards making such e-learning resources known and accessible for migrants.

(c) ASEM leaders asserted that cooperation of educational institutions, local communities and migrant communities should be supported to facilitate the harmonious relationships between local and transnational children.

28. Model ASEM leaders also recognized education as a lifelong process spanning from early education to young adults support for employment to educating older generations.
29. Model ASEM leaders discussed making funding its actions and proposition to be more inclusive of civil society, NGOs and social entrepreneurship. Partnerships with the private sector should also be explored.
30. Model ASEM Leaders agreed to work towards minimizing misconceptions and fostering understanding amongst migrants and local communities as well as countries of origin and destination to facilitate meaningful cooperation.
31. Model ASEM leaders recognized the importance of the media in this process of information.
32. Model ASEM leaders acknowledged the importance of NGOs in promoting cultural understanding and supporting the role of non-formal education.
33. Model ASEM leaders are in favor of increased dialogue, when possible, between sending countries and receiving countries recognizing migration as a two-way mechanism.
34. Model ASEM leaders discussed extensively on refugee crises and came to the realization that there should be more exchange on best practices between its Asian members and their European counterparts.
35. Model ASEM leaders emphasized the commitment of member countries to build stronger cooperation in migration management.

## **Residential Integration**

36. Model ASEM Leaders affirmed the UN's worry surrounding the urgent need for better management of the impacts of migration flows into host cities and better residential integration.

37. Model ASEM Leaders defined integration as a two-way trajectory, influenced by the response of individuals and institutions in the host societies and involving participation in the labour market, social interaction, cultural practices and social institutions.
38. Model ASEM Leaders remarked on the importance of combating residential segregation, which can be one of the negative side effects of urbanization and large-scale immigration, wreaking havoc on individuals, communities and the economy.
39. Model ASEM Leaders discussed various institutional measures that could potentially be launched to promote job opportunities among migrants, various programmes and strategies to promote harmonious relations between migrants.
40. Model ASEM leaders advocated for the residential integration, which should aim at institutional inclusion and empowerment of migrants who have been duly integrated.
41. Model ASEM leaders acknowledged the need of stronger cooperation between ASEM members, concerning Small and Medium Enterprises in both regions, which could be used to foster inclusion of migrants in hosting countries.
  - (a) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the rights and participation of youth, women, indigenous groups, people with disabilities and other minority groups.
42. Model ASEM leaders highlighted the need to create the database of educational profiles of the migrants for promoting better employment opportunities.
  - (a) Model ASEM leaders highlighted the importance of transparent and accessible assessment and recognition of educational credentials of the migrants.
  - (b) Model ASEM leaders encouraged structural efforts and educational programs, by both government and non-governmental organizations, to assist the difficult economic transition of the migrant community into the labour force.
43. Model ASEM leaders emphasize the urgent need for supporting and protecting the unaccompanied minors seeking asylum.

## Conclusion and Future Direction of Model ASEM

44. Model ASEM Leaders emphasized on investing effort on research on migration.
45. Model ASEM Leaders reaffirmed their mutual, collective, and cooperative commitment to promote effective and innovative strategies through incorporating innovative approaches based on perspectives from young researchers from Asia and Europe.
46. Model ASEM Leaders welcomed the development of the Model ASEM event since its inception in 2004 and articulated their vision to establish the Model ASEM as the primary platform of Asia-Europe youth dialogue, in conjunction with the biennial ASEM Summit. In addition, Model ASEM Leaders expressed their hope to formally handover the Model ASEM Le Havre 2016 Chair's Statement via youth representatives at the future ASEM Summits.
47. Model ASEM Leaders expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chair of Model ASEM Le Havre 2016 for chairing the event, and the event organizer, Sciences Po Campus Le Havre along with the supporters of the event: the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and our supporters Communauté de l'Agglomération Havraise, FED'LH, CCI Seine Estuaire France and the city of Le Havre. This made the event a successful second edition of the Model ASEM spin-off activities across Asia and Europe which was preceded by Model ASEM Singapore. Model ASEM Leaders look forward to the upcoming Model ASEM 2016 spin-off activities and the large-scale Model ASEM to be held in Mongolia in 2016.