

MODEL ASEM HA NOI 2016

In conjunction with ASEM Youth Week

A spin-off edition of the 7th Model ASEM

31 March – 07 April 2016
Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Chair's Statement of the Model Asia-Europe Meeting Ha Noi 2016 (Model ASEM Ha Noi 2016)

“Stronger Actions to Address Zero Hunger Challenge”

1. The Model Asia-Europe Meeting Ha Noi 2016 (Model ASEM Ha Noi 2016) was held on 31 March – 07 April 2016 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The meeting was attended by 104 Leaders¹, including the Heads of Youth Delegations, the Youth Representative for the European Union, and the Youth Representative for the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The meeting was hosted by the Youth Representative of the President of Mongolia.
2. Model ASEM Leaders mentioned and affirmed the successful results of the previous 5 Model ASEM simulations organized by 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 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10).

¹ Leaders throughout this document refer to the Youth Delegates role-playing as the 53 ASEM Heads of Government and State at the Model ASEM Ha Noi 2016

3. Guided by the theme of “Stronger Actions to Address Zero Hunger Challenge”, Leaders reaffirmed that ASEM is an important platform for political dialogue, economic cooperation and cultural-social exchanges between Asia and Europe. 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 Asia and Europe in the three pillars of cooperation.

Asia Europe Cooperation on climate change

4. Model ASEM Leaders concurred on the seriousness of the challenges posed by climate change on the environment. In this context, they reaffirmed their commitments to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement.
5. Model ASEM Leaders reiterated the importance of sustainable sources of energy which are essential to protect the environment. This can be achieved by promoting scientific research, the transfer of knowledge, the sharing of best practices, lessons learned through the exchange of technical expertise and by encouraging the adoption of green practices.
6. Model ASEM Leaders highlighted the effect of national and transnational economic activities in causing climate change.
7. Model ASEM Leaders understood that the means to achieve material action to address problems are readily available. Leaders proposed that developed countries offer sustainable infrastructure and technology to less developed countries in the fields of, but not limited to; food, energy, and water management;
8. Model ASEM Leaders encouraged the implementation of a national carbon tax in order to reduce carbon emissions.
9. Model ASEM Leaders encouraged frequent reviews of committed Intentionally Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) for carbon reduction with appropriate assessment and update.

10. Model ASEM Leaders welcomed the opportunity for additional dialogue and called for further comprehensive action in dealing with climate change.

11. Model ASEM Leaders called for a common endeavor to reduce deforestation and support efforts to enhance biodiversity and reforestation

Combating Hunger and Poverty:

12. Model ASEM Leaders noted with deep concern the additional effect of climate change on the food-water-energy nexus. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to all four areas holistically through the development of knowledge exchange and Green Economy.

13. Model ASEM Leaders were deeply concerned with the effect of world hunger, especially for low income populations in developing countries.

14. Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged the need to reduce food waste as well as the importance of implementing efficient distribution networks for excess food.

15. Model ASEM Leaders endorsed initiatives to reduce excessive meat consumption because of its impact on the environment, public health and rising food prices.

16. Model ASEM Leaders expressed significant concern for the rising impact of energy prices on food production, price and distribution.

17. Model ASEM Leaders urged the exchange and assistance of agricultural research.

18. Model ASEM Leaders highlighted the importance of food quality and that ASEM members should provide ways to ensure sustainable access to a balanced diet for their population.

19. Model ASEM Leaders called for the improvement of education to ensure children understand the importance of a healthy diet.

20. Model ASEM Leaders highlighted the importance of gender dimension in order to empower women and girls who are highly vulnerable, especially in the area of food production.

21. Model ASEM Leaders affirmed their commitment to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goals number one, two and thirteen.
22. Model ASEM Leaders supported further cooperation between ASEM partners in the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue as an important platform to address water, food, and energy security.
23. Model ASEM Leaders strongly affirmed the importance of ASEM networks for experts, government officials, academics and private actors to share experiences and updated information in the area of hunger and poverty.
24. Model ASEM Leaders reiterated their commitment to a more equal distribution of wealth in every nation, which would assist in eradicating hunger and poverty.
25. Model ASEM Leaders expressed support of a balanced nutritious diet for all citizens.
26. Model ASEM Leaders called for the activation of ASEM tangible cooperation areas to combat poverty, hunger and climate change.

Asia-Europe cooperation on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth

27. Model ASEM Leaders recognized the importance of Europe-Asia relations in upholding fundamental social and labour rights in accordance to the United Nations' universal declaration of human rights. This includes providing good working conditions and equitable employment to narrow the development gap.
28. Model ASEM leaders reaffirmed their commitment to an open world economy by forging stronger trade and investment relations, reducing trade barriers through co-operation between the two regions.
29. Model ASEM Leaders affirmed Public Private Partnerships are an opportunity to transfer information, technology and expertise for the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility and job creation through the ASEM.

30. Model ASEM leaders emphasized the significance of financial support and technological innovation for SMEs, as well as capacity building for entrepreneurs in creating market linkages between Asia and Europe.
31. Model ASEM Leaders indicated the importance of Information Communication Technology (ICT) development for sustaining connectivity and bringing market information and financial services to remote areas of ASEM members, ensuring universal access.
32. Model ASEM Leaders called for sustainable and transparent investment in a friendly environment through suitable monitoring policy systems and defined anti-corruption measures.
33. Model ASEM Leaders strongly welcomed Paris Agreement outcomes and the need to define specific environmentally friendly norms. These must be encouraged through ASEM members' laws and policies and extend to investors wishing to develop their activities in Asia and or Europe.
34. Model ASEM Leaders highlighted that sustainable development, as well as social inclusion, are of prior importance when addressing hunger eradication at the global stage, notably regarding investments in inter-governmental and local projects.
35. Model ASEM Leaders called for the foundation of "initiative Business forum" that must be included within the Asia and Europe Business Forum. Industrial and agricultural co-operation must create opportunities for joint financing of initiative addressing hunger eradication, poverty reduction and economic development.
36. Model ASEM Leaders committed to stronger actions of sustainable management of natural resources and energy industries.
37. Model ASEM Leaders suggested that ASEM partners should provide proper welfare for labor and strictly protect labor rights according to ILO, to encourage people to work in labor sector.

38. Model ASEM Leaders should provide opportunities for everyone to undertake personal and professional interests by providing education and social security development.

Asia-Europe cooperation on education and employment

39. Model ASEM Leaders were cognizant of the importance of exchanging lessons and information from each other's strengths as a way to improve their respective countries' systems and policies on education and employment. Leaders emphasized the significance of cross-cultural sharing and understanding.

40. Model ASEM Leaders suggested introducing more scholarships and exchange programs for all ASEM countries, the specifics of which would be determined at the ASEM Education Minister's Meeting.

41. Model ASEM Leaders suggested an Asia-Europe Educational Accreditation (AEEA) program to be established to set up suitable standard measurements for all ASEM members so that degrees obtained in different universities could be universally recognized.

42. Model ASEM Leaders suggested providing enhanced financial support for all education levels, especially to vulnerable people.

43. Model ASEM Leaders resolved to explore the possibility of developing and making better use of e-infrastructures and online platforms for e-learning.

44. Model ASEM Leaders supported removing all barriers to education experiences by marginalized groups in ASEM Members.

45. Model ASEM Leaders urged educational reforms concerning gender equality, including quality of teachers, tools and environment in order to eradicate the proliferation of gender biases, stereotypes and prejudices.

46. Model ASEM Leaders took note of the challenges concerning literacy and quality of education and improve the collaboration on furthering cooperation as well as promoting exchanges of good practices in the field of education.

47. Model ASEM Leaders underlined the need to equip students with competencies and skills that match global labor market requirements and collaborate with the private sector. This aims to boost their attractiveness and focuses on training addressing the employment market demand.
48. Model ASEM Leaders suggested Ministries of education and all education institutions should work closer with to private sector in order to provide courses in line with their demands.
49. Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged the need to sensitize youth to important global issues such as sustainable development and human rights.
50. Model ASEM Leaders agreed that Information Technology plays an important role in today's society and IT skills should be promoted and developed from primary school in all ASEM countries.
51. Model ASEM Leaders urged the importance of education in the development of the agricultural sector to address the hunger challenge.
52. Model ASEM Leaders stressed the need to develop entrepreneurship among the youth by providing financial and resources support to them.
53. Model ASEM Leaders recognized the human resource development and capacity building are key elements to reduce the rate of youth's unemployment.
54. Model ASEM Leaders suggested promoting more targeted programs for persons with disabilities in employment and education.
55. Model ASEM Leaders suggested facilitating an online job bank network to boost labor exchange among ASEM partners, which will be further discussed in another labour minister meeting.

Conclusion and Future Direction of Model ASEM

56. 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 in Asia and Europe.
57. Model ASEM Leaders welcomed the development of the Model ASEM event since its inception in 2004. Furthermore, Model ASEM Leaders 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 Ha Noi 2016 Chair's Statement via youth representatives at the future ASEM Summits.
58. Model ASEM Leaders expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chair of Model ASEM Ha Noi 2016 for chairing the event, and the event organizer, Youth International Cooperation Development Center of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Viet Nam (CYDECO - Viet Nam), and other supporters of the event, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, the Asia-Europe Foundation², the British Council Viet Nam, and the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN). This made the event a successful third edition of the Model ASEM spin-off activities across Asia and Europe which was preceded by Model ASEM Singapore 2015 and Model ASEM Le Havre 2016 respectively. Model ASEM Leaders look forward to the upcoming Model ASEM 2016 spin-off activities and the large-scale 7th Model ASEM to be held in Mongolia in 2016.

² ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Union