



7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7)  
Students' Forum: 11–15 May 2019 | Rectors' Conference: 12–14 May 2019

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Perspectives from Asia and Europe

## Rectors' Conference Programme



Co-organised by



National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

In Partnership with



## Programme Overview

Synergies with the ASEM Education Senior Officials' and Ministers' Meeting

Saturday 11 May	Sunday 12 May	Monday 13 May	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
STUDENTS' FORUM					
	RECTORS' CONFERENCE				
			SOM	MINISTERS' MEETING	

## Draft Programme

\*Speakers' confirmation is in progress\*

### Sunday, 12 May 2019

**Venue | National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)**

Bd. Expoziției 30A, Sector 1, etaj 2-4, Bucharest, Romania

08:00 – 17:00

Participants arriving throughout the day

17:00 – 18:00

Registration

19:00 – 22:00

Cocktail Reception with the Students' Forum Participants (Optional)

### Monday, 13 May 2019

**Venue | Palace of the Parliament**

Calea 13 Septembrie 1, Sector5, Bucharest, Romania

08:00 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:15

Welcome Remarks

09:15 – 09:45

**Keynote Speech**

09:45 – 10:45

**Opening Panel Discussion 1**

**Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance**

The aim of this session is to demonstrate how universities can make best use of their abilities and capacities to address the Sustainable Development Goals. Panellists will discuss visions and missions of universities within the framework of the sustainable development agenda, and the ability of institutions to link knowledge, research, education to contribute to the SDGs. The importance of cherishing values (like academic freedom, autonomy, participation) will be also discussed, and ways of balancing it with the more "technical" or "utilitarian" tasks and demands (like employability, skills for the labour market).

- **Prof Dr Subra SURESH**, President, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (invited)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof John THWAITES</b>, Chair of ClimateWorks Australia and the Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University (Australia) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Ms Katrina KOPPEL</b>, Vice-President, European Students' Union</li> <li>▪ Representative of a European University (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)/ National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) (tbc)</p>				
<p>10:45 – 11:00</p>	<p>ARC Origins, Vision and Mission</p>				
<p>11:00 – 11:30</p>	<p>Family Photo and Coffee Break</p>				
<p>11:30 – 13:00</p>	<p><b>Working Group Sessions Part 1</b>                  The Working Group Sessions are facilitated discussions to exchange good practices and discuss the Policy Recommendations (PRs) of rectors to the ASEM Ministers of Education. The PRs will be pre-drafted by the Conference Organising Committee and circulated among participants before the conference. Participants can <u>select from among 6 parallel Working Group sessions</u> along the 3 themes of ARC7:</p> <p><b>Theme 1</b>  <b>Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 1A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Liviu MATEI</b>, Provost and Pro-Rector, Central European University (Hungary) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Dr WU Zhaohui</b>, President, Zhejiang University (China) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED) (tbc)</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 1B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Abdul Rahim Hj. HASHIM</b>, Vice-Chancellor, University of Malaya (Malaysia) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Martin PAUL</b>, President, Maastricht University (The Netherlands) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the European University Association (EUA) (tbc)</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Theme 2</b>  <b>Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 2A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Hirofumi MAKINO</b>, President, Okayama University (Japan)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Friedrich FAULHAMMER</b>, Rector, Danube University of Krems (Austria) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) (tbc)</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 2B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Panut MULYONO</b>, Rector, University of Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Carmen SAMMUT</b>, Pro Rector for Student &amp; Staff Affairs and Outreach, University of Malta</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by UNESCO Bangkok (tbc)</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 1A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Liviu MATEI</b>, Provost and Pro-Rector, Central European University (Hungary) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Dr WU Zhaohui</b>, President, Zhejiang University (China) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED) (tbc)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 1B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Abdul Rahim Hj. HASHIM</b>, Vice-Chancellor, University of Malaya (Malaysia) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Martin PAUL</b>, President, Maastricht University (The Netherlands) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the European University Association (EUA) (tbc)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 2A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Hirofumi MAKINO</b>, President, Okayama University (Japan)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Friedrich FAULHAMMER</b>, Rector, Danube University of Krems (Austria) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) (tbc)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working Group 2B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Panut MULYONO</b>, Rector, University of Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Carmen SAMMUT</b>, Pro Rector for Student &amp; Staff Affairs and Outreach, University of Malta</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by UNESCO Bangkok (tbc)</p>
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**Theme 3**

**Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation**

**Working Group 3A**

- **Prof Nikita Yu. ANISIMOV**, President, Peoples' Friendship University (Russia) (invited)
- **Prof Sascha SPOUN**, President, Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany) (invited)

Facilitated by the European University Foundation (EUF) (tbc)

**Working Group 3B**

- **Prof Andrew J DEEKS**, President, University College Dublin (Ireland) (invited)
- **Mr James TANG**, Secretary-General, The University Grants Committee of Hong Kong (China)

Facilitated by the International Association of Universities (IAU) (tbc)

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch and speed dating with student leaders from Asia and Europe

14:00 – 15:30

**Working Group Sessions Part 2**

The Working Group Sessions are facilitated discussions to exchange good practices and discuss the Policy Recommendations (PRs) of rectors to the ASEM Ministers of Education. The PRs will be pre-drafted by the Conference Organising Committee and circulated among participants before the conference. Participants can select from among 6 parallel Working Group sessions along the 3 themes of ARC7:

**Theme 1**

**Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance**

**Working Group 1A**

- **Prof Bundhit EUA-APORN**, President, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) (invited)
- **Dr Pastora MARTINEZ SAMPER**, Vice President for Globalization and Cooperation, Open University of Catalonia (Spain)

Facilitated by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED) (tbc)

**Working Group 1B**

- **Prof Annelin ERIKSEN**, Vice-Rector for Global Relations, Bergen University (Norway)
- **Dr Jongryn MO**, Executive Director, Hills Governance Center (Korea) (invited)

Facilitated by the European University Association (EUA) (tbc)

**Theme 2**

**Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact**

**Working Group 2A**

- **Prof Melinda dela Pena BANDALARIA**, Chancellor of the Open University, President of the Asian

**Working Group 2B**

- **Dr Naveen JINDAL**, Founding Chancellor, OP Jindal University (India) (invited)

	<p>Association of Open Universities (The Philippines) (invited)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Martin HELLSTROM</b>, Vice-Chancellor, University West (Sweden) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) (tbc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr Jan MENGELERS</b>, President of the Executive Board, Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands) (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by UNESCO Bangkok (tbc)</p>
	<p><b>Theme 3</b>  <b>Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation</b></p>	
	<p><b>Working Group 3A</b></p>	<p><b>Working Group 3B</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Linda KRISTJANSSON</b>, Vice-Chancellor, Swinburne University of Technology (Australia) (invited)</li> <li>▪ Rector of a European University (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the European University Foundation (EUF) (tbc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Pedro RODRIGUES</b>, Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation and Internationalization, University of Porto (Portugal) (invited)</li> <li>▪ Rector of a Vietnamese university (invited)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by the International Association of Universities (IAU) (tbc)</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>	
	<p><b>Panel Discussion 2</b></p>	
<p>16:00 – 17:00</p>	<p><b>Taking action at a community level: SDGs as drivers of university societal impact</b></p> <p>The aim of this session is to review the different approaches how higher education actors (universities, students, regional networks) can play together to realise the SDGs, engage local communities and civil society in providing sustainable research and teaching, how can they translate the global goals into local actions, and what is the added value that SDGs can provide in these partnerships.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr Ramu DAMODARAN</b>, Chief, United Nations Academic Impact, Outreach Division, DPI (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Ms Tuula ANTOLA</b>, Director for Economic and Urban Development, City of Espoo, Mayers' Office (Finland) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Jiang WU</b>, Vice-President, Tongji University, Shanghai (China) (invited)</li> <li>▪ Rector of a European University (tbc)</li> </ul>	
<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>	<p><b>Leadership Swap Sessions led by students</b></p> <p>The Leadership Swap Sessions are facilitated by student leaders, who bring fresh ideas to the table and nudge participants to look at problems from a different perspective. There will be 6 parallel sessions organised on different topics related to the conference.</p>	

18:00 – 19:00	Refreshments
19:00 – 22:00	<b>Dinner and Cultural Evening</b> with the 51 Students' Forum participants from the 51 ASEM countries
<b>Tuesday, 14 May 2019</b> Venue: National Parliament	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day1, Introduction to Day2
09:15 – 10:15	<p><b>Panel Discussion 3</b>  <b>Taking action at international level: SDGs as a catalyst to reorient internationalisation</b>                      The aim of this session is to explore what kind of international partnerships do universities engage in, what is the shared purpose of these, and how do they contribute to the SDGs? Panelists will discuss how persons and ideas flow across borders, and how to generate dynamics among different systems and silos of research and education for the sake of the SDGs. The discussion will also focus on ethical and equitable international mobility of students and staff, and its contribution to sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Caroline BENTON</b>, Vice President and Executive Director for Global Affairs, Tsukuba University (Japan) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Rod CARR</b>, Vice-Chancellor, University of Canterbury (New Zealand) (invited)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Pam FREDMAN</b>, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Gothenburg, Sweden; President of the International Association of Universities (IAU) (invited)</li> <li>▪ Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Coventry University (United Kingdom) (tbc)</li> </ul>
10:15 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Debate Sessions led by ARC partner organisations</b>                      Designed by ARC partner organisations, these sessions provide food for thought in an innovative format. The aim of the Oxford style debate approach is to tackle one consensual topic from two different or opposing points of view, requesting the participants to take a side before the debate and see how their opinion has shifted by the end of the sessions. There will be 3 parallel sessions participants can choose from.</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Closing Panel Discussion 4</b>  <b>Taking action in Asia and Europe: Cooperation and partnerships on SDGs</b>                      The Closing Panel Discussion summarizes the take-aways and recommendations of the conference. It draws a conclusion on how higher education can influence its social environment through SDGs, and how university sectors can work together (in Asia, in Europe, between Asia and Europe, globally), and continue to feed into the Agenda 2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr Pornchai MONGKHONVANIT</b>, President, Siam University (Thailand)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Göran FINNVEDEN</b>, Vice President for Sustainability, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden) (invited)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Mr Joao PINTO</b>, President, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)</li><li>▪ Minister of Education, European country (tbc)</li></ul> <p>Moderated by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) / National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) (tbc)</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Presentation of Policy Recommendations</b> from the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum, followed by discussion and Q&A
16:00 – 17:00	<b>Hand-over of the ARC7 Rectors' and Students' Policy Recommendations</b> to ASEM Ministers of Education
19:30 – 22:00	<b>Closing Dinner of ARC7</b> Joint Dinner with participants of the ARC7 Students' Forum, ARC7 Rectors' Conference, ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2), ASEM Ministers' of Education (ASEM ME)

#### CO-ORGANISED BY



#### The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

The work of ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) focuses on the themes *access to quality education* and *youth employment*, and, hence, contributes with its projects to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to Goal4: "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all."

For more information, please visit the [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org).



#### The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), established in 1991 as a school of governance, is a landmark in the Romanian academic setting. SNSPA promotes academic excellence in Political Sciences, Sociology, Administrative Studies, International Relations, Diplomacy, European Studies, Communication Sciences, Psychology, Management. SNSPA teachers are experts in their fields; they incorporate current and global perspectives into the curriculum and promote innovative and original thinking.

Currently, the university is home to more than 6,000 students enrolled across 9 departments. Thousands of graduates from their academic programs have successfully entered careers in academia, government, industry and nonprofits. SNSPA is a member of several international university alliances (European Association of Institutions in Higher Education, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission, International Association of Universities, European University Association, European Association for Public Administration Accreditation) and collaborates with public institutions and business organizations across a wide range of different fields.

For more information, please visit [www.SNSPA.ro/en](http://www.SNSPA.ro/en).

## VISUAL CONCEPT

The United Nations General Assembly identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that encompass many aspects of contemporary society. The goals serve as globally-recognised standards that call upon stakeholders across all sectors, including education, to implement them by 2030. Achieving the SDGs, however, is a complex interplay that requires both strategic thinking as well as creative and innovative methods. Solving a Rubik's cube - one of the most famous educational toys ever - resembles this multifaceted process: it takes not only analytical skills and imagination but also hands-on action in solving the puzzle to get all the colours, sides and patterns right within the given time. Like the pieces in a Rubik's cube, the SDGs are interconnected and any decision to move towards a certain direction has an impact on the overall pattern and outcome. The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rector's Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7) is the platform for students, rectors, policy-makers and education ministers to showcase the interdisciplinary role of higher education in this serious game of developing and sustaining our societies. While the optimal solution may not be the easiest nor the quickest, we know we are moving the pieces in the right order by taking turns in drafting policy recommendations and making commitments towards the SDGs at ARC7.

Organised by



National University of Political  
Studies and Public Administration

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ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Commission.



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