



# 20<sup>th</sup> ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU20): an educational journey of 8,000 km

**Under the theme “Gateways to Asia and Europe: Connectivity by Land, Sea and Air”, 48 students and young professionals from 46 ASEM<sup>1</sup> countries will solve business, policy and socio-cultural challenges linked to transportation during a 3-week train journey across China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation.**

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## Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

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### More Information

<http://bit.ly/1Q0uLhG>



The 20<sup>th</sup> ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU20) takes place from 15 August to 3 September 2016 and is a grand-scale experiential learning project. It celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process, and promotes the historical and contemporary ties of Asia and Europe. Under the ASEM theme of connectivity, the youth participants will embark on an educational journey that connects 6 cities: Beijing, Harbin, Vladivostok, Chita, Irkutsk and Ulaanbaatar.

The programme in each city includes academic lectures, trainings, and site visits to local transportation hubs, commercial and historical places. The participants will meet representatives from local governments, businesses, civil society and academic institutes to learn about various aspects of connectivity, and transportation modes and their impact on socio-economic development.

One of the many ASEFSU20 highlights is an inter-disciplinary competition among participants selected from a pool of 8,222 applicants and representing different academic and professional disciplines. The 48 students and young professionals are to develop concrete, pragmatic or visionary solutions for businesses, governments and/or local communities on pertinent matters, linked to the transportation sector. These range from questions on safe transportation of cultural artefacts to accessibility to public transport for physically disabled people, green logistics, the spread of infectious diseases through increased air traffic, security at railway stations, sustainable tourism, frameworks on the management of autonomous underwater vehicles or the combat of human trafficking at major transportation hubs. The expected solutions for these challenges can range from mobile to analogue applications, social media strategies, policy briefs, business plans to promotional materials.

ASEFSU20 brings together over 20 partner organisations and supporters from across Asia and Europe. The project is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Beijing Jiaotong University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service, Transbaikalian State University, Irkutsk State University, Mongolian Youth Federation, and the Ulaanbaatar Railway Youth Council (UBTZ). Supporters are Far Eastern Federal University, Russian Railway Tours, UNICEF, Heiko Seibel Fotografie, Fraport AG, Subnero, Safehouse Foundation, Chester Beatty Library, European Network on Independent Living, and more.

For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1Q0uLhG>

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<sup>1</sup> The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 53 members (21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Union). [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

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## About the Organisers

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The **Asia-Europe Foundation (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, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. 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). Together with about 750 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 700 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 20,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures. For more information, please visit [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

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The **Ministry of Education and Science of Russian Federation** is a federal executive authority responsible for the state policy development and normative and legal regulation in the areas of education, research, scientific, technological and innovation activities, nanotechnology, intellectual property, as well as the nurturing, social support and social protection of students and pupils of educational institutions. For more information, please visit [xn--80abucjiibhv9a.xn-p1ai/](http://xn--80abucjiibhv9a.xn-p1ai/)



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The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation** is a federal executive body responsible for the drafting and implementing of government policies and legal regulations in the field of foreign relations. The President of the Russian Federation oversees the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For more information, please visit [archive.mid.ru//bdomp/brp\\_4.nsf/main\\_eng](http://archive.mid.ru//bdomp/brp_4.nsf/main_eng)



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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia**  
For more information, please visit [www.mfa.gov.mn/](http://www.mfa.gov.mn/)



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Established in 1896, **Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU)** is a national key university with a focus on information and management disciplines, traffic and transportation science and technology. BJTU is one of the first universities selected into the "National 211 Project" and the "985 Strength Discipline Innovation Platform" project. The university has been closely connected with the nation's railway industry since its establishment, with the members and students of its faculties being involved in almost all major events and different stages. BJTU has 8 national key disciplines, with 15 post-doc research stations, 21 level-1 disciplines offering doctoral degree programmes, 35 level-1 disciplines offering master's degree programmes, and 13 professional degree programmes. The university has 4,428 faculty and staff members, 14,173 undergraduate students, 7,842 graduate students, 2,727 doctoral students, 7,867 professional degree students, 8,424 adult students and 1,884 short-term and long-term international students. For more information, please visit [en.bjtu.edu.cn/](http://en.bjtu.edu.cn/)



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**Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT)** was established in 1920 and has as of today over 100,000 graduates. Many of its graduates serve in high-level managerial positions and are acknowledged specialists in the fields of science and technology, and economics and education. A number of graduates have assumed leadership positions in the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the government at different levels, or become Generals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), academics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. The university has signed academic cooperation agreements with 126 institutions of higher education in 24 countries. For more information, please visit [en.hit.edu.cn](http://en.hit.edu.cn)

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Founded in 1967, **Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service (VSUES)** is an entrepreneurial, innovative university and an educational leader in the field of service and economics in the Russian Far East. Every year VSUES sets new objectives in accordance with current requirements and the economic needs of the Asian-Pacific Region. The university offers 68 bachelor's degrees, 20 master's degrees and 22 postgraduate degrees. VSUES focuses on providing a practical, hands-on approach to learning. The University has integrated training environments for students to improve their practical and job placement skills. VSUES cooperates with more than 80 universities, organisations and companies from 15 countries. Every year VSUES welcomes more than 600 international students from Asia, Europe and the USA. The international exchanges of faculty members, students and information to promote international competitiveness of the university is one of the university's priorities for international recognition. For more information, please visit [www.eng.vvsu.ru/](http://www.eng.vvsu.ru/)



With its 15 faculties and over 88 training courses, **Transbaikalian State University** has over 18,000 students who are mainly from the Transbaikalian region, the Far East and Eastern Siberia. It offers 57 different bachelor's degrees, and about 25 postgraduate programmes. The university's special mission is to address the socio-economic problems of the region through strategic partnerships with executive and legislative authorities at all levels and from different sectors of society. In this way, the University contributes to a regional development strategy, monitors socio-economic development, and supports the formation of innovative personnel policy, scientific and artistic, educational and cultural programmes in the region. For more information, please visit [www.zabgu.ru/en](http://www.zabgu.ru/en)



**Irkutsk State University (ISU)** is the leading scientific and educational institution in Eastern Siberia. Founded in 1918, ISU conducts research projects that contribute to innovative socio-economical advancements of the region Baikal Siberia. ISU offers bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. programmes for both Russian and international students. ISU's focus is on fundamental research in areas such as high energy physics, analytical chemistry, experimental microbiology, archaeology, ethnography, environmental management and Baikal studies. International cooperation is one of ISU's priorities: at present, the University has over 70 cooperation agreements with foreign partners and implements joint educational and double-degree programmes. Supporting the principle "education through science", ISU aims at strengthening its position as the regional center for generating new knowledge in the context of a changing social and economic environment. For more information, please visit [www.isu.ru/en](http://www.isu.ru/en)



The **Mongolian Youth Federation (MYF)** is the largest youth-led and youth-focused organisation in Mongolia with over 200,000 members. Established in 1921, its mission is to represent and serve the youth on a national and international level. MYF is internationally recognised as the most representative body for youth in Mongolia. The organisation is a member of the United Nations' World Assembly on Youth and the Asian Youth Council. For more information, please visit [www.myf.mn](http://www.myf.mn)



**Ulaanbaatar Railway Youth Council (UBTZ)**

## Supported by

