



This event is hosted in partnership with:



Media Partner:



Sustainable Development Goals for Asia and Europe: Delivery Options for Agenda 2030

19-20 October 2016 | Stockholm, Sweden

CONCEPT NOTE

ABSTRACT

A 2-day conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 19-20 October 2016 in Stockholm, Sweden, with the objective to:

- Explore national SDGs implementation strategies
- Examine follow up and review approaches in order to efficiently monitor SDGs delivery
- Contribute to the Asia-Europe dialogue on a key issue of follow up and review for Agenda 2030
- Encourage knowledge exchange between Asian and European experts on environmental issues

BACKGROUND

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in "*Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*"¹ presents multiple challenges for countries to implement SDGs. While 17 SDGs were designed at the global level, many countries still need to make an effort to localise these global agenda into their national strategies and systems to initiate transformative change.

Moving forward, countries will need to work on localising SDGs and their accompanying targets and indicators to assure alignment with the goals and principles set out in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The **Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)** is contributing to this process by providing a platform to strengthen knowledge exchange among officials from Asia and Europe in the fields of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

Established in 2003, the ENVforum is a partnership of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC), Government of Sweden through the Regional Asia Environment Conference Support Programme administered by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). During the first decade of its operation, the ENVforum has organised over 50 high-level international meetings, roundtables, conferences and workshops, bringing together over 1200 selected participants from governments, academia, international organisations, NGOs and the civil society. The Forum has also authored 7 prominent publications addressing issues related to the topic of sustainable development.

¹ *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

Sustainable Development Goals for Asia and Europe: Delivery Options for Agenda 2030

2

19-20 October 2016 | Stockholm, Sweden

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is a 2-day conference that will take place in Sweden, Stockholm, gathering representatives from relevant ministries in Asia and Europe as well as practitioners involved in SDGs' research and implementation.

This conference will provide a space for the exchange of ideas and experiences between experts and government officials dealing with SDGs, as well as for those who were involved in developing and implementing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The conference is also designed to promote exchange on regional and international levels and present the outcomes of the ENVforum research initiative that explores SDGs' implementation strategies based on a number of selected case studies from Asia and Europe.

The conference will build on active participation and inputs from the experts. It will consist of: guidance presentations on SDGs' implementation, country presentations by representatives from ASEM countries sharing their experience in transitioning from MDGs to SDGs, as well as plenary discussions on various aspects of SDGs' implementation and financing.

The conference will be co-organised by ASEF and SEI, which will provide:

- Expertise on SDGs, SDGs implementation and indicators, as demonstrated by its research series on this topic
- Guidance on how to mainstream SDGs into national development planning
- An Asia-Europe dimension by linking Asian and European viewpoints

The event will be a platform to initiate discussions on research findings with regards to country-specific progress in ensuring SDGs implementation and will consider exploring financial support and realignment possibilities to help others deliver.

The participants will benefit from the expertise of regional and international experts, with better understanding of current sustainable development challenges in Asia and Europe. All attendees will be strongly encouraged to interact with one another in order to test their ideas and develop a common dialogue.

OBJECTIVES

- To contribute to national preparation of SDGs' implementation challenges
 - To support multi-stakeholder, regional and international dialogue on mainstreaming SDGs into national development planning
 - To enhance discussions on sustainable development issues between states in ASEM region
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SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

This conference will gather 100 participants and speakers, including:

- Countries' representatives from relevant ministries working on SDGs' implementation in ASEM region
 - International experts, civil society, academia and business representatives working on SDGs' implementation;
 - Sustainable development experts and practitioners based in Sweden
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TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

- A regional conference to exchange ideas on SDGs implementation, monitoring, and financing
 - A report detailing conference proceedings and summarising expert presentations
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Sustainable Development Goals for Asia and Europe: Delivery Options for Agenda 2030

3

19-20 October 2016 | Stockholm, Sweden

INTANGIBLE OUTCOMES

- Contribution to Asia-Europe dialogue on vital issue that will be at the centre of International negotiations now and in the years to come with the focus on selected goals and cross cutting issue of gender equality
- Encourage discussions on sustainable development with regards to achievement of specific goals
- Facilitate exchange of experiences between Asian and European experts on SDGs

ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



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



ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC) was established in 2011 with the principal mandate of promoting Asia-Europe cooperation to create and enhance eco-innovation of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in both regions.

For more information, please visit: www.aseic.org/main.do



The **Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)** is an official German Political Foundation. It is entrusted by the German Parliament with a mandate, which lies at the core of the task of promoting democratic and sustainable structures worldwide. This mandate involves the strengthening of the relevant institutions and persons, procedures and norms and the requisite attitudes enabling such development to take place.

For more information, please visit www.hss.de or www.hss.de/southeastasia



Established in 1998, the **Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)** is an independent, not-for-profit think tank, based in Japan. It goes beyond research to provide practical ways to protect the earth's environment and to realise greater sustainability and equity in the global community.

For more information, please visit <http://iges.or.jp>



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