Who we are
The ASEF Public Health Network is a unique participatory platform which encourages public health dialogue in Asia and Europe. The Network provides space for an array of actors from health and non-health sectors to share their knowledge and experience. This exchange helps in facilitating partnerships between multi-level stakeholders including representatives of governments, international organisations, business corporations and non-profit organisations.

Cooperation between Asia and Europe to deal with infectious diseases and preparedness for tackling pandemics has been strengthened through the network. Projects engage young people and specific vulnerable groups, such as migrants, sexual and ethnic minority groups, through creative and participatory formats. Communicating with people to improve broad awareness on public health issues is also a core activity of the Network.

Our mandate
The Network was launched in 2009 at the 9th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was an exclusive outcome of the ASEM leaders’ call for a global solidarity to tackle the Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak.

What we do
The Network activities are classified under three thematic areas:

Regional Integration and Infectious Diseases
Infectious diseases do not respect national borders. Therefore, countries and regions take more serious efforts to collaborate and coordinate with each other, tackling threats of future infectious diseases. ASEF Public Health Network facilitates this collaboration and coordination between Asia and Europe through exchange of information and experience. This exchange is done through research initiatives to assess the strengths and gaps in regional integration, towards developing public health policy recommendations.

Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness and Response
The ASEF scenario approach is an exercise to look beyond tomorrow and take into account the ‘unknown’. ASEF, through workshops entitled ASEF-ASAP* engages health and non-health sector representatives from public and private institutions to address uncertainties around pandemics and develop scenarios. These scenarios will be used to develop long-term strategies for pandemic preparedness and response.

Public Health Dialogue
Vulnerable groups such as young people, migrants as well as sexual and ethnic minorities are most affected during any public health crisis. ASEF engages them through various community level initiatives so that their voices are heard by policy makers. The Network facilitates dialogues to address public health needs of vulnerable groups. This contributes to the improvement of access of vulnerable groups to health services.

*Accurate Scenarios, Active Preparedness
“ASEF Public Health Network is multi-level multi-sector and bi-regional in nature”

Our partners
Members of the Advisory Group:
Regional Strategic Partners – The ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), European Commission – Directorate General for Health and Consumers (EC-DG SANCO)

Technical Advisory Agencies – International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC), World Health Organization – Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO-WPRO)

NGO Partner – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – Asia Pacific Zone (IFRC)

Business sector Partner – Nestlé

ASEM co-sponsor countries (political support):
Hungary, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

Supported by
the Government of Japan

Milestones so far
• Formation of the Advisory Group with representatives from the international community.
• Organising a Seminar on “Multisector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe” in Kuala Lumpur in 2009.
• Conducting a research on “Regional Mechanism of Communicable Diseases Control in Europe and Asia.”
• Organising an Experts’ Group Meeting on “Regional Integration and Infectious Diseases” in Luxembourg in 2010.
• Development of three scenarios under the name of ASEF-ASAP (Accurate Scenarios, Active Preparedness) in 2010.
• Organising the 16th ASEF University on “Public Health and Vulnerable Groups: Access to Quality Health Care Services” in collaboration with Medical University of Łódź in 2010.
• Organising a Public Talk on “Regional Integration and Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases’ Surveillance in Asia and Europe” in Singapore in 2011.
• Publishing the Asia-Europe Journal on “Public Health and Vulnerable Groups” in 2011.

Know more
To know more about the Network and our upcoming projects visit www.asef.org. You can also send in your queries directly to Mr Rachmat Irwansjah at rachmat.irwansjah@asef.org
Ms Sunkyoung Lee at sunkyoung.lee@asef.org

For media related queries write to
Ms Debasmita Dasgupta at debasmita.dasgupta@asef.org

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 500 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe.

www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org