Asian and European Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieve sustainable development goals, as stated during the ASEF Chair’s Statement at the recent 9th ASEF Summit (ASEM9) in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

"Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the prioritisation of the international community’s action to achieve sustainable development. To make substantive contributions we need forums to bring experts and institutions to add value and our knowledge on sustainable development and SDGs is the overarching goal of the United Nations (UN)."

Mr Sunandar Shrestha, Director, Focal Point for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations.

Mr Steinhof, from the Office of the Executive Coordinator for UN Conference on SD (Rio+20), was one of the keynote speakers for the Seminar on “Sustainable Development Assessment: Towards Measurable Goals.” The event was organised in Singapore (21-22 November 2012) by the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (AEEF) in partnership with ASEAN SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC).

Mr Nicholas Hanley from the European Commission (EC) was the other keynote speaker for the Seminar, which gathered more than 40 representatives from international organisations, environmental think-tanks and business agencies from ASEF countries, participated in the event. Mr Hanley is Head of International Relations, DG Environment – EC.

"The main aim of the seminar was to initiate the Post-Rio discussions on SDGs and their indicators under the Asia-Europe Environment Forum programme, it will be a three-year programme (2013-2016), which will empower countries towards a bottom-up approach consultation process concluding with proposal of set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Mr Thierry Schiavo, ASEF Director for Intellectual Exchange.

For more information please visit: http://www1.asean.org/asef9

The EMIForum is an initiative of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the ASEAN SMEs Eco-Innovation Center, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Nemo Stedel Foundation and the Institute of Global Environment Strategies.

Read the full ASEF Chair’s Statement.