

PRESS RELEASE

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MORE INFORMATION

<http://tinyurl.com/cvnfytu>

p. 1/2

Asia-Europe experts call for sustainable development goals

Asian and European Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieve sustainable development goals, as stated during the ASEM Chair's Statement¹ at the recent 9th ASEM 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)", said Mr Surendra Shrestha, Director, Focal Point for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations. "To achieve that goal we need more effective forums for experts and institutions to share regional SD knowledge, particularly from Asia and Europe", he added.

Mr Shrestha, from the Office of the Executive Coordinators 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 (ENVforum) in partnership with ASEM 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 ASEM countries, participated in this event. Mr Hanley is the 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 (2013-2015), which will empower countries' leadership towards a bottom-up approach consultation process concluding with proposal of set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", mentioned Mr Thierry Schwarz, ASEF Director for Intellectual Exchange.

For more information please visit <http://tinyurl.com/cvnfytu>

The ENVforum is an initiative of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Institute of Global Environment Strategies.

¹ Read the full ASEM Chairman's Statement <http://www.aseminfoboard.org/summit-statement.html>

ABOUT ORGANISERS



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), which currently comprises 49 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat (www.aseminfoboard.org). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 600 projects in the realms of governance and human rights, economy and society, sustainable development and environment, public health, arts and culture and academic co-operation and education. In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating 'Connected Histories, Shared Future'.

For more information, please visit: www.asef.org



The **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. Having agreed upon the importance of SMEs as main engine of innovation and growth, ASEM member countries have joined together to create ASEIC as international platform where growing environmental regulations and eco-innovative technologies are shared and new business opportunities are created, and ultimately implementing the vision of green growth around the globe.

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



Sida is a government organization under the Swedish Foreign Ministry. It administers approximately half of Sweden's budget for development aid. Sida works according to directives of the Swedish Parliament and Government to reduce poverty in the world. The overall goal of Swedish development cooperation is to contribute to making it possible for poor people to improve their living conditions. Sida's headquarters is in Stockholm with many offices in countries where there are ongoing activities.

For more information, please visit <http://sida.se>



Based in Munich, Germany, the **Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)** is a German political foundation with 35 years of experience in civic education in Germany and international co-operation around the world.

For more information, please visit <http://hss.de/english.html>



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. While the outlook of IGES is global, the principal geographical scope of its activities is Asia and the Pacific region, an area which is experiencing rapid economic development and which will affect the global environment through its population growth, urban environmental problems and other environmental issues.

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