



PRESS RELEASE

Strategy Development Workshop on Preparedness for Pandemics and Public Health Emergencies in the Passenger Air Transport Sector

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Budapest, Hungary

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Is air transport sector prepared for the next pandemic?

Technological advancements, while leading to more efficient and faster air transportation, have also allow infected individuals to travel to the other side of the world before noticing symptoms that at a later stage contribute to the wide spread of diseases.

The situation with SARS in Asia illustrated how international air travel could experience a sudden disruption during an epidemic outbreak, causing massive financial loss to global airline industry. Air transport companies have since worked on contingency plans to mitigate the situation. To be better prepared, current plans require testing to ensure their robustness to respond to future pandemics.

The Asia-Europe Foundation addressed this need by organising a workshop, “Preparedness for Pandemics and Public Health Emergencies in the Passenger Air Transport Sector”, which was held in Budapest, Hungary (15-16 December 2011). This two-day scenario building workshop was attended by 25 representatives from governments, airport authorities, airline industries, and international agencies from Asia and Europe.

Participants agreed that the inclusion of social media for the risk communication, improvement of surveillance and response systems, establishment of partnerships and networking among different actors are the key recommendations for improving air transport sector pandemic preparedness. These recommendations will be finalised for dissemination by early February 2012.

The event was organised with funding support from the Government of Japan and technical support from Lufthansa and Prospex. ASEF also received in-kind contribution from some participants who covered their own participation costs.

More about the project: <http://www.asef.org/index.php/projects/themes/public-health/2373-strategy-development-workshop-on-preparedness-for-pandemics-and-public-health-emergencies-in-the-passenger-air-transport-sector#2389-air-transport-sector-prepares-for-pandemics>

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This event is organised with the support of Government of Japan

About the 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*). 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