



4th ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC4)

**University-Business Partnerships:
Asia and Europe Seeking 21st Century Solutions**

26-27 March 2015
Hangzhou, China

OVERVIEW

Background

The ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC) is recognised as an Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME). The 4th ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC4) delivers policy recommendations directly to the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5) to be held in late April 2015 in Riga, Latvia.

The 1st ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC1) took place in 2008 in response to the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME) launched in the same year. Since then, ARC has been held biennially in Asia and Europe alternatively. As a high-level platform for inter-regional dialogue, the past editions of ARC have brought together hundreds of Asian and European university leaders for solution-oriented discussions on emerging higher education issues concerning both regions.

Another unique feature of ARC is the Students' Forum as its integral part. The Students' Forum takes place in conjunction with the Rectors' Conference under the identical theme. Students from various ASEM countries discuss the same topics as the Rectors yet from youth perspectives. Selected student-representatives will present the results of their discussions face-to-face to the Rectors.

The ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum have become one of the initial commitments to the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which is the successor to the United Nations Decade of ESD (2005-2014). It is one of the few existing large-scale inter-regional projects aimed at advancing ESD-related policies.

Theme

The collaboration between higher education institutions (HEIs) and the business sector is vital to socio-economic development. However, in today's fast-changing world, various emerging challenges to sustainable development require innovation in the HEI - Business relationship. It is against this backdrop that ARC4 is themed "*University-Business Partnerships: Asia and Europe Seeking 21st Century Solutions*". The specific topics to be addressed reflect the key issues facing the higher education sector in both Asia and Europe. These include how universities and the business sector can better cooperate to equip students with employability skills, to cultivate entrepreneurship, and to innovate learning environments through information and communication technologies.

Outline

ARC4 consists of 3 plenaries and 3 working sessions. Each of the working session comprises 3 simultaneous focus groups tackling the above-mentioned issues. A side-event of ARC4 is the visit to the Headquarters of the Alibaba Group, the world's largest online business-to-business trading platform for small businesses, headquartered in Hangzhou. In addition, there will be a special



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session for networking and partnership-development among Asian and European universities and enterprises.

Participants

ARC4 invites Rectors of renowned universities from the current 51 ASEM countries. Business and industry representatives, senior officials of Ministry of Education and related government agencies of ASEM countries, delegates of international and non-governmental organisations are also among the dialogue partners.

Expected Outcomes

ARC4 is an excellent occasion for solution-oriented university-business dialogue and Asia-Europe exchange. Based on focused group discussions, the attendees will jointly develop policy recommendations for ASEM Education Ministers. In addition, the participating-universities and organisations will benefit from the networking, partnership-building and profile-enhancing opportunities provided by the Conference.



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Co-organised by



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 a not-for-profit intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 650 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 17,000 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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

Hosted by



Zhejiang University is a comprehensive research university with distinctive features and a national as well as international impact. Research at Zhejiang University spans 12 academic disciplines, covering philosophy, economics, law, education, literature, history, art, science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, management and etc. With 7 faculties and 37 colleges/schools, Zhejiang University has 14 primary and 21 secondary national leading academic disciplines.

For more information, please visit www.zju.edu.cn/english/

In Partnership with



Created in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO, the **International Association of Universities (IAU)** brings together more than 650 institutions and organisations worldwide for exchange and action on common concerns in the area of higher education.

For more information, please visit www.iau-aiu.net/



The main objective of the **ASEAN University Network (AUN)** is to strengthen the existing network of co-operation among leading universities in ASEAN. This is done by promoting co-operation and solidarity among ASEAN scholars and academicians, developing academic and professional human resource, and promoting information dissemination among ASEAN academic community. The network has brought together the ASEAN countries' individual quest for academic collaborations in the identified priority areas that would deepen understanding of the dynamic ASEAN, and accordingly hasten regional identity and solidarity.

For more information, please visit <http://www.aunsec.org/>



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Supported by



Chulalongkorn University, the oldest higher education institution in Thailand, was founded in its present form in 1917 by King Vajiravudh (Rama VI). It is named after his father, King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), who laid the foundations for modern education in the country. In keeping with the shared vision of both kings, it has maintained a reputation for academic excellence and been a pillar of the kingdom ever since. Today, it consists of 19 faculties, two teaching institutes, three colleges and 10 institutes, with a total enrolment of more than 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

For more information, please visit www.chula.ac.th/



Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand

In the Framework of



The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 53 members: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Viet Nam plus the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union.

For more information, please visit www.aseminfoboard.org