



# Asian and European Rectors Develop Policy Recommendations on University-Business Partnerships

**Policy Recommendations handed over to Ms Mārīte SEILE, Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and host of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5).**

## Press Release

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### More Information

<http://bit.ly/asef-arc4>

The **4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC4)** gathered over 100 university leaders and business representatives from Asia and Europe on 26-27 March 2015 at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. With ARC4 recognised as the Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME), the participants developed policy recommendations on how to better cooperate and build innovative partnerships.

Mr DU Zhanyuan, Vice Minister for Education of the People's Republic of China, and Ms Mārīte SEILE, Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, opened the Conference with keynote speeches. "ARC4 is a grand informal dialogue platform, which ensures that the information circulates all along the chain of students, rectors and policy-makers", noted Ms Mārīte SEILE.

This was demonstrated by participants from across 45 ASEM member countries who joined the conference, including Croatia and Kazakhstan, the 2 newest ASEM members.

In recent time, there is an emerging debate over the role that universities play in promoting youth employment. "One of the challenges to foster university-business partnerships is to understand that knowledge systems do not only exist at university systems – they exist everywhere", stated Prof. Dinesh SINGH, Vice-Chancellor of University of Delhi, in one of his remarks.

Amb. ZHANG Yan, Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), added, "In the new global economy, it is crucial for universities to equip students with the right set of skills that they will need to deal with growing challenges in the job market".

The **4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference** was preceded by the ARC4 Students' Forum, where selected students from 51 ASEM member countries discussed and presented their proposals on the Forum's theme directly to the Rectors.

The conference was co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and was hosted by Zhejiang University (China). The recommendations from the **4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference** will be available on ASEF's website for public dissemination.

For more information please visit <http://bit.ly/asef-arc4>



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## About the Organisers

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### Co-organised by

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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](http://www.asef.org)

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

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**Ministry of Education** of the People's Republic of China

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### Hosted by

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**Zhejiang University** is a comprehensive research university with distinctive features and 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, 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/](http://www.zju.edu.cn/english/)

### In Partnership with

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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/](http://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 [www.aunsec.org/](http://www.aunsec.org/)

### Supported by

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**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/](http://www.chula.ac.th/)



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**Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand**

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## In the Framework of

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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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

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