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Sustainable Future for a Small(er) Planet?

Over 50 representatives from 20 countries participated at the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) conference on 'Green Growth and Sustainable Development Goals: A Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda' on 4-5 November 2013 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The representatives were from governments, international organisations, civil society, academia and the private sector.

"With the active participation of Asian and European environmental experts, this conference made a meaningful contribution to the international discussions on Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs", highlighted Ambassador ZHANG Yan, the Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). "It was also a special opportunity to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum", he added.

In the keynote speech, Mr Brice LALONDE, Special Advisor on Sustainable Development to the UN Global Compact, elaborated on the expectations and realities of business operations in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework. The highlight of the first day was a panel discussion that examined the concept of 'green growth'. Panellists discussed how concepts, traditionally not associated with sustainability, such as innovation and profitability, can be leveraged to achieve sustainable growth.

The highlight of the second day was the launch of an Interim Report on 'Sustainable Development Goals for a Small Planet'. This ASEF-led inter-regional research project in collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) expounds the current status of selected ASEM countries regarding their efforts in sustainable development. Further, it suggests illustrative goals applicable to Asia and Europe, potentially adopted by countries outside the two regions. It also includes a menu of matching indicators already reported in the countries covered. The presentation on this research by Prof. Laszlo PINTER, IISD and CEU, Dr Ingeborg NIESTROY, IISD and Ms Ella ANTONIO, President of Earth Council Asia-Pacific received comments from Dr David STANNERS, Head of International Cooperation at the European Environment Agency (EEA), and Dr Raman LETCHUMANAN, Head of Environment Unit at ASEAN Secretariat among others. These comments will be discussed and incorporated in the final version of the report.

For more information and for the online copy of the Interim Report, please visit <http://bit.ly/1akoNjy>

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



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, education, sustainable development, economy, governance and public health. 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 600 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



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>



The Swedish Environmental Secretariat (SENSA) is the arm of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). It provides enhanced opportunities for a dialogue with regional partners with an environment focus, thereby strengthening Swedish co-operation in the area of environmental action.

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>



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