PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE / LOCATION
11 June 2020
Singapore

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MORE INFORMATION
https://asef.org/press/corporate/news-5023-asef-goes-digital

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The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Announces New Leadership

ASEF sees a changing of the guard as it elects its 8th Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for new four-year terms in Singapore.

On 11 June 2020, at its 41st Board of Governors' Meeting, held online this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ASEF's 53 Governors from Asia and Europe elected Mr Toru MORIKAWA (Japan) as its new Executive Director, and Ambassador Leon FABER (Luxembourg) as its new Deputy Executive Director.

ASEF's leadership alternates between Asia and Europe every four years. Mr SUN Xiangyang (China) has been Acting Executive Director in ASEF since last December. Mr MORIKAWA and Ambassador FABER will take over from Mr SUN, the previous Deputy Executive Director in a few months. ASEF would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr SUN for his services and to wish him well in his future endeavours.

Mr MORIKAWA and Ambassador FABER are both seasoned career diplomats who bring decades of experience and expertise to ASEF. Mr MORIKAWA's previous postings include serving as Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in France. He has also worked in the areas of Media and Economic Policy and has experience in fundraising for projects and organisations.

Ambassador FABER's previous postings include being Head of Mission, European Union Delegation to Lao PDR, and Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg. He has also worked in the areas of Human Rights, Health and Humanitarian Affairs.

Mr MORIKAWA and Ambassador FABER will assume their posts at a time of global challenges, innovation and digitalisation requiring concerted efforts across continents. They will work together to further strengthen ASEF's visibility and catalytic role in enhancing people-to-people exchanges between Asia and Europe.

2020 marks ASEF's 23rd year of establishment since it was created as the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)'s only permanent institution in 1997, following the inauguration of the ASEM political dialogue process by Asian and European leaders in 1996. ASEF's mandate is to complement the ASEM Process by providing opportunities for Asians and Europeans to exchange ideas and collaborate, to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges.

About the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

"We bring together the people of Asia and Europe to address common global challenges and create dialogue platforms that link civil society to the ASEM Process."

Mr SUN Xiangyang
Acting Executive Director
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

More Information
www.ASEF.org

WHAT
ASEF is an intergovernmental, not-for-profit organisation that strengthens Asia-Europe relations through its various projects spanning 7 key thematic areas of work: Culture, Economy, Education, Governance, Media, Sustainable Development and Public Health. Acting as an interface between civil society and government, ASEF complements the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and works as a platform for Asia-Europe dialogue to stimulate permanent networks that reinforce bi-regional relations.

WHO
ASEF was founded by Partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) - an informal, political dialogue process comprising of 51 countries in Asia and Europe, the European Union, and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEF remains to this day the only established institution of ASEM.

WHERE
ASEF is based in Singapore, but its activities expand to all ASEM Partner countries.

WHEN
Since its creation in March 1997, ASEF has brought together more than 40,000 people from Asia and Europe.

WHY
ASEF's Mission is to complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process through opportunities for Asians and Europeans to exchange ideas and collaborate, to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges.

About the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

More Information
www.ASEMinfoboard.org

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe.

ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. Its foremost event, the ASEM Summit, is a biennial meeting between the Heads of State and Government, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. In addition, ASEM Ministers & Senior Officials also meet in their respective sectoral dialogues.

The initial ASEM Partnership in 1996 consisted of 15 EU Member States, 7 ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. Today, ASEM comprises 53 Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.[1]

Through its informal process based on equal partnership and enhancing mutual understanding, ASEM facilitates and stimulates progress but does not seek to duplicate bilateral and other multilateral relationships between Asia and Europe.

[1] Currently the 53 ASEM partners are: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union. Check out the ASEM Infoboard Website for detailed information