ASEM PPE Stockpile Released to Several ASEM Partners as Fight against COVID-19 Intensifies Globally

From the ASEM Initiative for Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, where ASEF takes part with the Government of Japan and the World Health Organization (WHO), we dispatched necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from its Stockpile Project to support the effort to control the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24th and 25th May 2021, the PPE items from the Stockpile Project of the ASEM Initiative have arrived in the Kingdom of Cambodia. It consists of 1,250 safety goggles, 15,000 isolation gowns, 8,000 N95 masks and 25,000 pairs of examination gloves, which will contribute to the fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The ASEM Initiative plans to dispatch PPE to a few more ASEM Partners amid the worsening COVID-19 pandemic. It is scheduled to deliver 2,500 safety goggles, 30,000 isolation gowns, 8,000 N95 masks, 200,000 surgical masks and 50,000 pairs of examination gloves, to Bangladesh. In addition, Lao PDR will receive 1,250 safety goggles, 20,000 isolation gowns, 8,000 N95 masks and 25,000 pairs of examination gloves.

This in-kind contribution will be transferred to each country from the stockpile stored in Singapore and will be delivered in coordination with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Western Pacific (WHO-WPRO) and the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO).

In 2020, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Initiative provided PPE to 5 ASEM Partners – namely, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia and the Philippines.

The ASEM Stockpile project is funded by the Government of Japan.
About the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**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.

More Information
www.ASEF.org
About the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

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.
About the ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza

More Information
https://asef.org/themes/public-health/

WHAT
Following the 6th ASEM Summit (ASEM6; 2006; Helsinki, Finland) where the leaders expressed their determination to combat avian influenza and a possible human influenza pandemic, the “ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza”, financially supported by the Government of Japan, was launched at the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM9; 2009; Hanoi, Viet Nam). Since then, the two components of the Initiative, ASEM stockpile of anti-viral drugs and personal protective equipment, as well as ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN) have contributed to strengthening ASEM Partners’ capacity for managing Public Health Emergencies.

WHO
Donor: the Government of Japan
Partner: World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO WPRO)

WHERE
Stockpiled items are stored at the warehouse located in Singapore.
Public Health Network leads to the thematic area of Public Health at ASEF, located in Singapore.

WHEN
Since 2009.

WHY
The mission of the initiative is to increase ASEM Partners’ capacity to fight against emerging infectious diseases across Asia and Europe, including pandemic influenza.