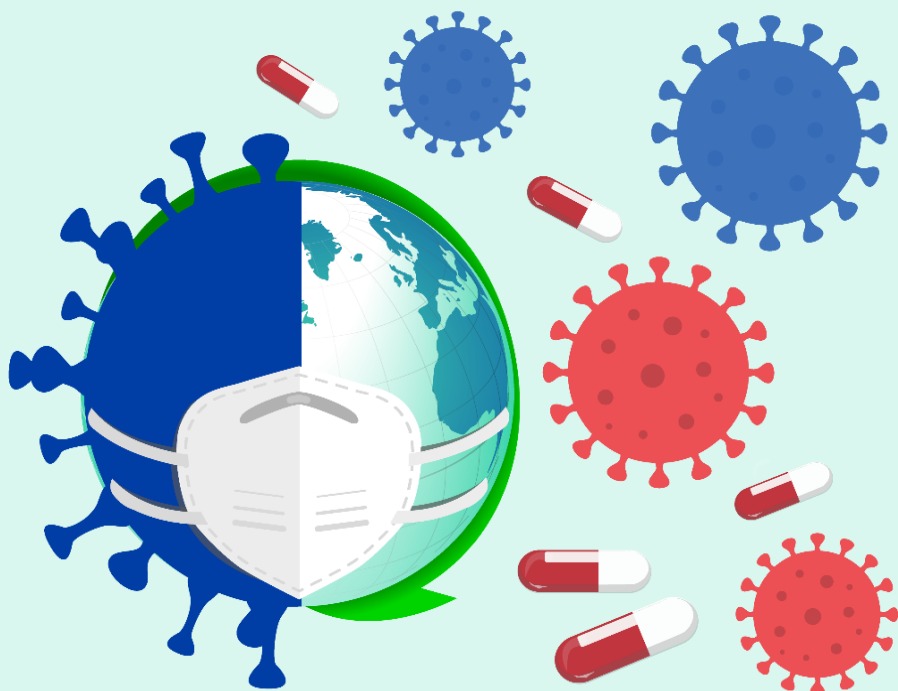


# ASEF'S participation in the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting for Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)

**17 November 2021**



## Remarks by ASEF Executive Director *Amb. MORIKAWA Toru*

A good morning, good afternoon and good evening, depending on where you are! Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak at GHSA SGM. My name is **MORIKAWA Toru**, I am **Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**. It is my great pleasure to meet you virtually. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your acceptance for **ASEF to become a member of GHSA this year**. We are delighted to be part of the effort fighting against pandemics.

Let me share about the Asia-Europe Foundation and our Public Health Network. **The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is the sole permanently established institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process**. ASEM has **53 Partners**, including 51 partner countries, plus the ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Union. ASEF promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. ASEF has **7 thematic areas of common concern of Asia and Europe**, such as Climate Change and human rights, and Public Health is one of these key themes at ASEF.

The thematic area “**Public Health**” is called **ASEF Public Health Network, or ASEF PHN**. It is part of the ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, officially launched in 2009 with the financial support of the Government of Japan. The initiative also has a stockpile project – PPE and other items get delivered in case of Public Health Emergencies. ASEF PHN promotes a **bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases (EIDs)**, including pandemics, such as COVID-19. We provide a platform to facilitate **multi-sector knowledge sharing among ASEM Partners**.

In April this year, ASEF PHN organised an online roundtable, “**Pandemic and the Economy – investment for the future**”, which connected us with GHSA. We facilitated a much-needed dialogue on sustainable financing related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, bridging officials from the health and non-health sectors together. The roundtable promoted the concept “*the best economic strategy is to control pandemic*” via intersectoral collaboration for better financial preparedness for future pandemics.

Upon joining GHSA in June this year, ASEF has joined in **Action Package for Sustainable Financing for Preparedness**. ASEF also joined to **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Action Package**, as we have been working on AMR since 2018. Using our unique strength linking the health and non-health sectors in combatting public health threats, ASEF is committed to continuing contributing to GHSA, especially in the area of **sustainable financing and AMR via its Action Packages**. We plan to organise some dialogue sessions addressing issues surrounding these topics, and we are happy to seek further collaboration with you.

Thank you very much for listening.