

PROJECT REPORT

BACKGROUND

Rapid urbanisation is a defining global trend of the 21st century. Today, more than 55% of the world's population live in urban areas. It is expected that this number will increase to 68% by 2050. This development brings along various socioeconomic and environmental challenges for policy makers, urban planners and urban citizens.

To tackle these complex and interconnected issues, collective action & collaboration across sectors, as well as disruptive & bold ideas are needed. Here, the unique creativity and potential for innovation of youth can play a crucial catalyst role in driving sustainable urban change and accelerating the realisation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11.

At past ASEM Summits, Asian and European Head of States and Leaders also "[emphasised the role of young people in contributing to sustainable development](#)". In line with this, ASEF's Education Department creates opportunities for young professionals & students from Asia and Europe to meet, learn from each other, and collaborate to address common global challenges.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The [23rd ASEF Summer University \(ASEFSU23\)](#) was an interdisciplinary Hackathon on "**Liveable Cities for a Sustainable Future**". Implemented as a virtual programme between September and November 2021, the project connected young developers, programmers, designers, innovators, urban planners and SDG experts to collaborate & develop urban solutions for challenges in three of the most populated countries in ASEM: Bangladesh, India & Pakistan.

- 1 | **Creating Clean Cities:** [Tackling Urban Waste Management in Dhaka](#)
- 2 | **Creating Healthy Cities:** [Addressing Obesity among Children in Delhi](#)
- 3 | **Creating Accessible Cities:** [Enhancing Urban Mobility in Lahore](#)

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The 23rd ASEF Summer University gave Youth the opportunity to



EXPAND KNOWLEDGE

Enhance understanding of urban challenges and leadership towards the Sustainable Development Goals, with intellectual and technical mentorship



STIMULATE COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

Work with peers, play their role towards Sustainable Urbanisation, transforming their ideas into concrete solutions.



EMPOWER YOUTH

Be part of a wider youth community for cross-regional exchange and represent the youth voice across ASEM.

KEY FACTS

Dates

- **Team Leaders Training**
20 - 31 September
- **Pre-hack Phase**
11 - 29 October
- **Hackathon**
3 - 15 November

Format

- Online

Participants

- 84 participants and Hackathon Team Leaders

Resource Persons

- 56 resource persons including Technical Coordinators, Mentors & Speakers, among others

The detailed [Project Overview is available here](#).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

ASEFSU23 was organised virtually between 20 September – 15 November 2021, with 3 phases:

Team Leaders Training: 20 – 31 September

12 selected young professionals and students from Bangladesh, India & Pakistan took part in a training on Design-Thinking, Facilitation and Team Collaboration, in preparation to take on the role of Hackathon Team Leaders in the subsequent phases.

Pre-hack Phase: 11 – 29 October

84 Participants joined live trainings and workshops to deepen their understanding of the theme of Sustainable Cities and Urbanisation and an outlook on Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. As part of the programme, they completed individual & group tasks, and received extra resources for self-paced learning using an e-learning platform.

Hackathon: 3 – 15 November

Participants moved from theory to practice and competed in groups to develop digital prototypes solving specific urban challenges in Bangladesh, India & Pakistan. Each participant team was supported by intellectual and technical mentors throughout the development process. All teams [pitched their solutions](#) in a livestreamed event, and the winners were announced in a live [Award Ceremony](#) the following day.

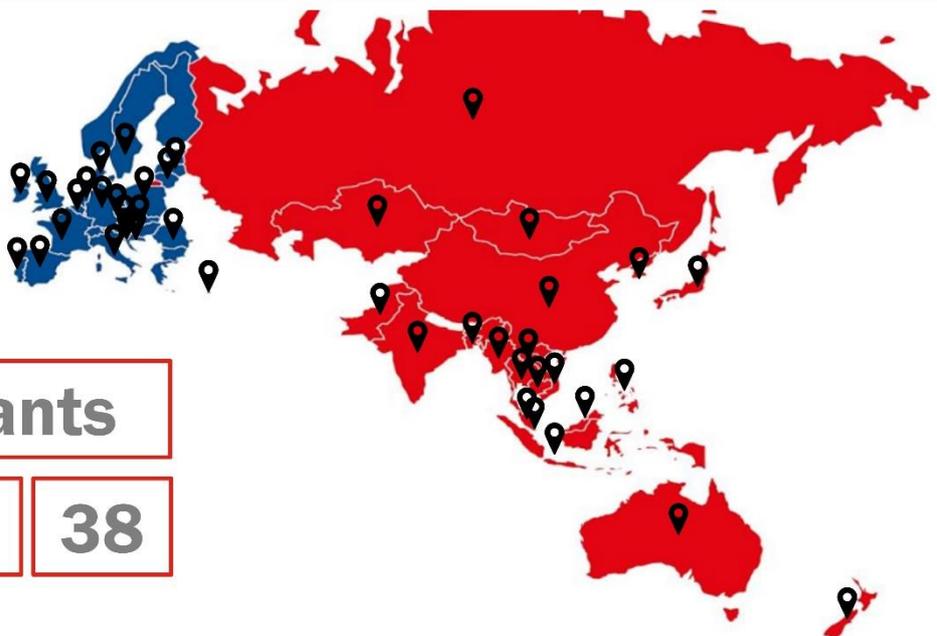
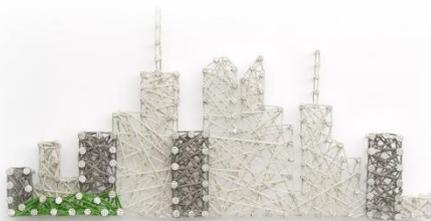
In addition, a Certificate of Professional Development (CPD) was offered by University College Cork and provided interested participants a certification on Sustainable Urbanisation and Global Leadership, with extra live sessions and self-paced study elements.

An overview of the [Programme is available here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

	84 Participants		612 Applicants from 45 countries
	38 ASEM countries represented		5 Weeks of participant engagement
	56 Resource Persons		12 Challenge Solutions created and pitched by participants
	4,144,733 Social media reach		18,566 Website visitors
	100% would recommend ASEFSU or other ASEF projects to a friend		

An overview of the [Participants' Booklet is available here](#), and the [Resource Persons and Organisers Booklet is available here](#).



84

Participants

ASEM Countries

38

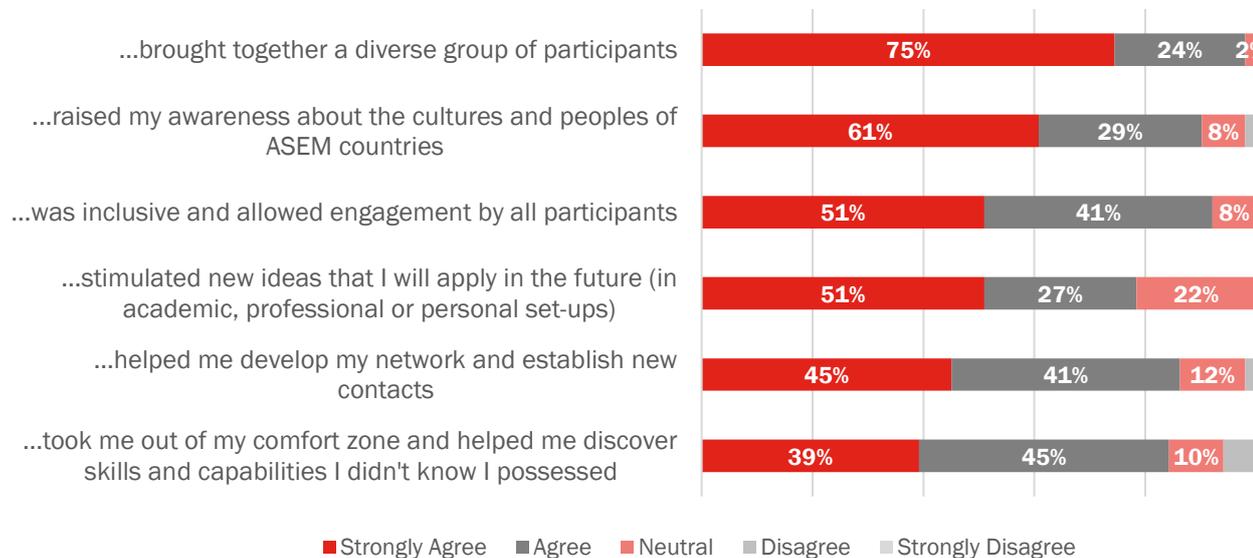


OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Participants who filled up the final feedback survey agreed that ASEFSU23 was successful in achieving the following objectives:

- 88%** **EXPAND KNOWLEDGE**
of participants agreed they developed a better understanding of Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 84%** **STIMULATE COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION**
of participants spoke positively about their team collaboration
- 88%** **EMPOWER YOUTH**
of participants agreed they had built closer connections with their peers from the other region than their own (Asia/Europe)

To what extent do you agree with the following statements.
The 23rd ASEF Summer University...



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