



OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR MORIKAWA TORU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION (ASEF) AT THE CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS) WEBINAR, 12 APRIL 2022 (4:00-5:00PM, SGT)

Greetings from Singapore,

My name is Toru MORIKAWA, Executive Director of Asia-Europe Foundation, ASEF.

Let me first start by reiterating ASEF's statement on the 1st of March, ASEM Day, our appeal for peace and dialogue, and our thoughts with the innocent people on the ground which were concretized by our recent contribution to the humanitarian assistance in the area of infectious disease for them.

I would now like to thank the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) for initiating and giving ASEF the opportunity to take part in this webinar on the important theme of "Asia-Europe: cooperation or competition in gas?". This is an important but a huge question to respond. For ASEF, Sustainable Development and the issue of energy **are but two sides of the same coin**. Sustainable Development is in fact one of ASEF's seven key thematic areas. We align our work with the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the COP21 process.

It is already April and winter is officially over, arguably reducing the overall demand for heating. However, the question remains: how to ensure a secure and cost-effective supply of energy while minimizing the carbon footprint. BP's *Statistical Review of World Energy 2020* pointed out that fossil fuels still accounted for 84% of the world's primary energy consumption in 2019, followed at a distance by hydropower (6%), renewables (5%), and nuclear power (4%). How to minimize the impact on the energy market and the efforts tackling the climate change of the current geopolitical situation is already a focus of discussion in Europe, while how to meet the rapidly growing energy demand not impeding the efforts against the climate change in Asia continues to be one of the priority issues. It may be necessary to work on the innovation in all directions such as "zero-emission thermal power plant."

I hope that this webinar would contribute to such interregional debates and ASEF would continue to be a part of it. Thank You.
