



PRESS RELEASE

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RESPONDING TO WHO'S HEALTH EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES: ASEF, UTILISING THE CONTRIBUTION FROM JAPAN, EXTENDS US\$ 9.5 MN FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), utilising the contribution from Japan, provides US\$ 9.5 million to support WHO's humanitarian assistance in response to the urgent health needs to tackle COVID-19 and other infectious diseases over the next 6 months in Ukraine and neighbouring ASEM partner countries - Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia - and non-ASEM partner Moldova, which have been accepting and supporting millions of Ukrainian refugees.

This humanitarian assistance consists of three parts: (i) medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), equipment for ICUs (Intensive Care Units) and ambulances, as well as disinfection and decontamination materials; (ii) ensuring continuity of COVID-19 related medical services in Ukraine and neighbouring countries and extending access to such services to refugee populations; and (iii) preventing and responding to vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and polio.

The funding will be disbursed from the Japan Trust Fund at ASEF (set up in 2021). The objective of the Fund is to strengthen preparedness and response to the COVID-19 and other emerging infectious diseases in and around ASEM countries.

"Reiterating our statement on ASEM Day, our thoughts are with the innocent people on the ground," said Ambassador MORIKAWA Toru, Executive Director, ASEF. "We are confident that this financial assistance paves the way towards the betterment of public health specifically for refugees and internally displaced people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries and in line with our message," he added.

"We thank ASEF and the Government of Japan for this timely assistance as we at WHO and partners scale up our response to the Ukraine emergency," said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe. "This assistance will go a long way in supporting health

systems to ensure that lifesaving supplies and services can reach the most vulnerable, including women and children, both in Ukraine and in surrounding countries involved in the humanitarian response.”



About the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

More Information

www.ASEF.org

WHAT

ASEF is an intergovernmental organisation that strengthens the relationship between Asia and Europe 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 ASEM Partners - an informal, political dialogue process comprising of 51 countries in Asia and Europe, and two institutional partners: European Union (EU), and ASEAN Secretariat. ASEF is the only established institution of ASEM.

WHERE

ASEF is based in Singapore, and its activities expand to all ASEM Partner countries, two institutional partners, and neighbouring countries when needed.

WHEN

Since its creation in March 1997.

WHY

ASEF's mission is to complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process through opportunities for people in Asia and Europe 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 environmental and health 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 (EU) 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](http://www.ASEMinfoboard.org) for detailed information