



PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Mai Fujii
Co-ordinator for Pandemic
Preparedness & Response
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
mai.fujii@asef.org

WEBSITE

www.asef.org

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IMAGES

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ADDITIONAL US\$ 10 MN IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM JAPAN FOR WHO'S HEALTH EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), utilising the US\$ 10 million contribution from Japan, has renewed its commitment to support WHO's Emergency Response for COVID-19, and other Vaccine Preventable and Infectious Diseases in areas where the needs are assessed to be immense such as Ukraine and neighbouring countries which have all been continuously accepting and supporting millions of Ukrainian refugees including ASEM partners – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia - and non-ASEM partner Moldova. ASEF together with the Government of Japan is working closely with WHO to ensure the health and well-being of all affected people.

The first phase of the assistance was successfully implemented from the beginning of April to December 2022. This second phase of the humanitarian assistance consists of four parts: (i) medical equipment and supplies such as cold chain equipment, devices and consumables, diagnostics supply, disinfectants and decontaminants, medical center equipment, PPEs, and therapeutics, (ii) capacity building which includes technical training activities and exercises for COVID-19, vaccine preventable diseases such as Polio and Measles, and other infectious diseases such as Cholera, HIV and TB, (iii) operational assistance to support rapid response teams and field surveillance/monitoring missions, and to support response to HIV and TB; (iv) sensitization activities such as development/translation of technical materials for healthcare workers in rural areas, implementation of Risk Communication, Community Engagement and awareness raising campaigns for Measles, Polio, and other vaccine preventable diseases, as well as HIV and TB.

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.

“The sole aim of the second phase of assistance is to strengthen the existing health systems and to work closely with WHO and other donors in ensuring a robust response to the ongoing health emergency”, says Ambassador MORIKAWA Toru, Executive Director, ASEF. He further adds, “the health of the refugees and the internally displaced people is a top priority, and we in ASEF, together with the Government of Japan, and the other partners in the international community have heeded the call of WHO and remain committed to provide assistance in alleviating their current situation and to ensure equal access to health care for all.”



About the Asia-Europe Foundation

MORE INFORMATION

www.asef.org

WHAT

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is a not-for-profit, inter-governmental organisation that strengthens relations between Asia and Europe. ASEF works across 7 key thematic areas of work: Culture, Economy, Education, Governance, Media, Sustainable Development and Public Health. It acts as an interface between civil society and ASEM Governments. ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation amongst the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe.

WHO

ASEF was established by the Foreign Ministers of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), an intergovernmental process comprising 51 Partner Countries in Asia and Europe as well as the EU and ASEAN. ASEF remains to this day the only permanent institution of ASEM.

WHERE

ASEF is based in Singapore, but its activities expand to all ASEM Partner countries¹

WHEN

ASEF was established in February 1997, and in 2022 is celebrating its #ASEF25 Anniversary.

WHY

ASEF's Mission is to complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process through opportunities for Asians and Europeans to exchange ideas, collaborate, and 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.

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