



PRESS RELEASE

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Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) collaborates with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for a USD 10 million initiative to enhance preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) across five partner countries.

Kuala Lumpur, 28 November 2023 – As part of the Stockpile Project, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) nominates the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for a two-years collaborative project worth USD10 million aimed at strengthening preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in five partner countries namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the Philippines. In selecting these five countries, the IFRC has prioritized countries at high risk of disasters caused by natural hazards, the effects of which have been made worse by climate change, resulting also in high risk of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

This groundbreaking partnership seeks to leverage the global humanitarian reach of the IFRC to improve the targeted countries' healthcare landscape, response mechanisms, and access to health services. Through its coordinated approach, IFRC's will be procuring, storing, and rapidly deploying critical medical resources necessary for public health emergencies to those five countries. Under this initiative, IFRC will work closely with its National Societies, who play an important role as auxiliary to governments. The National Societies in these five countries will significantly contribute to the execution of the project given their unique community-based approach.

The USD10 million is part of the Government of Japan (GoJ) contribution to the 'Stockpile Project' for COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) countries. Utilising this fund, the IFRC and National Societies will implement the Stockpile Project in close connection with the public authorities through a structured set of activities such as needs proposal, coordination, procurement, stock management, dispatch, confirmation of use, reporting and more.

"This is a great opportunity to make a difference. Our Stockpile Project exists to enhance ASEF members' preparedness and response capacities for COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Diseases" says Ambassador MORIKAWA Toru, ASEF Executive Director. "I firmly believe that the nomination of IFRC will bring positive and direct impact to the benefiting partner countries while simultaneously advancing a shared public health goal across borders" he added.



About the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

MORE INFORMATION

www.asef.org

WHAT

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships, and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the 7 thematic areas of Culture, Education, Governance & Economy, Public Health, Media and Sustainable Development.

WHO

ASEF was established by the Foreign Ministers of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) - an intergovernmental process comprising 51 partner countries and 2 partner international organisations in Asia and Europe. 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 on 15 February 1997.

WHY

ASEF's Mission is to complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process through opportunities for Asians and Europeans to exchange ideas and collaborate, and to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges.