

ASEF Policy Dialogue with Youth

Higher Education Policies Working Towards the SDGs in Asia and Europe

A side event to the ASEAN Youth Conference 2023

2-5 November 2023
Jakarta, Indonesia

CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

The [Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#) and the [ASEAN Youth Organisation \(AYO\)](#) are partnering with each other to advance sustainable development and build synergies among their activities.

The ASEAN Youth Organisation (AYO) is organising the [ASEAN Youth Conference 2023 \(AYC\)](#) between 3-5 November 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. AYC is AYO's annual signature event that gathers youth across ASEAN and ASEAN's partner countries. Since the establishment of the programme in 2018, AYC has directly impacted 1,000+ youth leaders and has further influenced more than 30,000 ASEAN youth as a part of AYO's umbrella mission to create sustainable and actionable change. This year, guided by the theme "**Guardians of the Sustainable Future for a Resilient ASEAN,**" AYC will gather around 150 ASEAN and international young leaders and change-makers who are keen to share their thoughts about various persisting challenges and opportunities in our society and help develop and implement international projects. This will be the youth's contribution to implementing the agenda for peace, stability, solidarity, unity, prosperity, and sustainability in ASEAN in accordance with Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship theme, "**ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth.**"

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is contributing to the meeting with a side event: a policy dialogue with student and youth organisations to discuss the findings of the [ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education \(ARC9\)](#) report titled "**Asia-Europe Mapping Higher Education Policies and Practice: Working Towards the SDGs.**" The report consists of two complimentary parts:

- Higher Education Policies contributing to SDGs (covering **31 national contexts** in Asia and Europe)
- Higher Education Institutions contributing to the SDGs (240 institutional responses from **42 countries** in Asia and Europe)

Download the Report here: <https://bit.ly/42qTln7>



ASEF and AYO are partnering with each other to build synergies and work together towards the same goal: to create an effective peer-to-peer platform for young leaders in Asia and Europe to connect, exchange ideas and build new networks to promote sustainable development.

ASEF will organise a Policy Dialogue with Youth and student organisation leaders on 2 November as a side event of the AYC 2023. ASEF delegates are invited to attend the AYC 2023 taking place between 3-5 November 2023.

OBJECTIVES



Conduct an Asia-Europe policy dialogue based on the findings of the ARC9 Report, and draft recommendations for the [ASEM Education Ministers Meeting](#), the official dialogue partner of ARC9



Facilitate exchange of good practices and networking among youth and student organisations in Asia and Europe

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

Around **15 student and youth organisation representatives** active in advancing sustainable development in higher education will be gathering to discuss the recommendations of the ARC9 report and share their views on higher education's role in achieving the SDGs.

- Participation is on a “by invitation only” basis.
- Participants organisation must be active in at least one of the ASEF member countries in Asia or Europe.
- Participants are invited to attend the ASEF Policy Dialogue and the AYC 2023 to make the most out of their engagement, but they can choose to attend the ASEF Policy Dialogue only.

OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS

We designed a programme to benefit youth and student organisation representatives in multiple ways. We fully expect them to:

- **Expand their knowledge** on how higher education can contribute to Sustainable Development;
- Get **inspiration on the actions** that they can take to advance Sustainable Development in their organisations and institutions;
- Understand the system level policies in this area and **inform policymakers** through the recommendations developed in this policy dialogue; and
- Make new professional contacts, **build and strengthen their networks**, and brainstorm on possible synergies across their work.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Location: Verse Luxe Hotel Wahid Hasyim

Arrival of participants in Jakarta and hotel check-in.

THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Location: Luang Prabang Room, the ASEAN Secretariat

08:00 - 09:00 Hotel check-out and travel to the ASEAN Secretariat

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Ms Rodora BABARAN**, Director of Human Development, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)
- **Mr Lukas GAJDOS**, Acting Head of Delegation/Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN

- **Mr Michael Nugraha BUDIARTO**, Managing Director, ASEAN Youth Organisation (AYO)
- **Ms Reka TOZSA**, Director of the Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

09:30 - 09:40 Group Photo

09:40 – 10:00 Keynote Message

- **Dr Roger CHAO, Jr**, Assistant Director/Head of the Education Youth & Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)

10:00 - 10:30 Introduction to ARC9 and the topic

- Introduction to the ARC9 Report on “Asia-Europe Higher Education Mapping: Working Towards the SDGs” and setting the stage for the workshops.

Ms Reka TOZSA, Director of the Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00 Dialogue Workshop 1: What is the present situation, how do student and youth organisations contribute to the SDGs?

- Questions to be discussed based on the findings of the ARC9 report include: How do student and youth organisations within or outside of higher education institutions contribute to the SDGs? Which stakeholders are the most involved and who is the most powerful?

12:00 – 13:00 Dialogue Workshop 2: What are the key challenges and opportunities for student and youth organisations to contribute to the SDGs?

- Questions to be discussed based on the findings of the ARC9 report include: What are the different structural, financial, knowledge challenges? Where are the opportunities where student and youth organisations could increase impact?

13:00 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Transit to the afternoon venue at Verse Luxe Hotel

14:30 - 15:30 Dialogue Workshop 3: What is the role of policymakers?

- Questions to be discussed based on the findings of the ARC9 report include: How do national governments support their higher education institutions, student and youth organisations to contribute to the SDGs? What kind of strategies are in place? What policy tools should they use more? Or less?

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Dialogue Workshop 4: Developing Policy Recommendations

Participants will develop policy recommendations for the 9th ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting (ASEMME9 in January 2024) based on their discussions on the status quo and challenges.

- 1-2 policy recommendations on how policymakers should work with student and youth organisations to make more progress on the SDGs

- 1 policy recommendations on how Asian and European student and youth organisations could work better together

17:30 - 17:45 Health Break

17:45 - 18:30 Presentation of Recommendations in Plenary

18:30 - 19:00 Summary of the Day and Closing Remarks

19:00 - 20:00 Transfer to Golden Boutique Hotel Kemayoran and Dinner

FRIDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2023

Location: The ASEAN Secretariat

08:30 - 17:30 Participation at AYC 2023 titled “Guardians of the Sustainable Future for a Resilient ASEAN”

SATURDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2023

Location: Golden Boutique Hotel Kemayoran

08:30 - 17:00 Participation at AYC 2023 titled “Guardians of the Sustainable Future for a Resilient ASEAN”

SUNDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2023

Location: Golden Boutique Hotel Kemayoran / Site Visits

07:30 - 21:00 Participation at AYC 2023 titled “Guardians of the Sustainable Future for a Resilient ASEAN”

MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2023

Hotel check-out and departure of participants from Jakarta.

ORGANISED BY



Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). 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 thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy, public health and media.

One of ASEF's flagship projects is the [ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education \(ARC\)](#), the Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEMME) and the only bi-regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university and student leaders, policymakers and ministers to discuss higher education issues and shape the education landscape in Asia and Europe. For more information, please visit www.asef.org.



ASEAN Youth Organisation (AYO)

ASEAN Youth Organization is an international non-partisan, non-profit, and non-governmental organization established to promote international understanding and goodwill parallel to the ASEAN Motto and constitutes one vision, identity, and community. Our vision is to create a world where youths exhibit a heightened interest in ASEAN through our activities that Empower Youth, Engage, & Educate Communities to implement ideas that enable Positive Sustainable Change.”

With 10 years of experience in Community Development, ASEAN Youth Organization provides Youth with knowledge, skills, and abilities to bring back to their communities, as well as boosting the regional development by fostering partnerships with various stakeholders. For more information, please visit <https://aseanyouth.net/>

ASEF's contribution is made possible with the financial support of the following:

