

6th ASEF LEADERSHIP YOUNG LEADERS IN SOCIETY SUMMIT 5.0

July - October 2025 | Osaka, Japan
In conjunction with Japan World Expo 2025

Concept Note



BACKGROUND ON THE ASEFYLS SERIES

The ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS) is a platform that connects young people across Asia and Europe, applying a 360° approach on leadership development and community engagement: 1) self-leadership (**you**), 2) team leadership (**we**) and 3) societal leadership (**all**). A highlight of the platform is the dialogue with high level political leaders, Heads of States and Governments of Asian & European countries, the EU & the ASEAN Secretariat.

Key statistics of the project series outcomes so far:

7,600 applicants on average for each edition
 830+ participants throughout the series
 100% of participants would recommend the project to a friend
 475,000+ website visitors on average for each edition
 3,000,000+ social media reach on average for each edition

See what the ASEFYLS is all about in this [trailer!](#)



PROGRAMME DESIGN



The ASEFYLS6 is built on the following programme elements:

1) Navigator's Training | Physical, 4-days | 13 - 17 July 2025, Warsaw, Poland

The training aims to train a small group of resource persons, known as "Navigators", to take on leading roles at ASEFYLS6, as resource persons and facilitators among Asian & European youth participants. The Navigators Training brings 20 Navigators together for capacity building in preparation for their subsequent roles, providing training on:

- Self & Team leadership skills training
- Techniques to enhance Intercultural Understanding in multicultural teams
- Understanding Society 5.0 in individual, local and comparative contexts
- How to guide Case Studies Research

The Training will be co-organised and hosted by College of Europe Natolin in Warsaw, Poland.

2) Knowledge Building Phase | July-Aug 2025, Online

Participants attend an online course on Leadership in Society 5.0 to build up thematic expertise prior to the conference on site. The ASEFYLS6 Knowledge Building phase brings together 80 Participants, fuses theory, training and policy and integrates the following elements:

- Panel discussions through Public, Private and People lenses that showcase conceptual frameworks, real-life challenges & creative problem solving
- Breakout discussions that foster global connections & peer-to-peer learning

- Senior-Junior Leaders Dialogues with Asian and European Leaders (high level political leaders) that highlight leadership skills in Society 5.0 and different policy approaches to technological integration and innovation.

3) Leadership in Action Phase | Aug-Sept 2025, Online

Based on the ASEFYLS6 theme, participants will be allocated to specific working groups and implement “Leadership in Action” through sourcing real-life case studies. This phase calls for participants to turn theory into action and use their intercultural and leadership skills to collaborate. Each group will be set a societal challenge question (e.g. how can we solve x societal problem by using technology), and they will be tasked with finding 4 best practice example case studies (2 from Asia and 2 from Europe).

The Knowledge Building and Leadership in Action Phases are co-organised by ASEF and its knowledge partners, the College of Europe and the universities of the Japan Hub for Innovative Global Education (JIGE).

4) ASEF Young Leaders Summit | 29 Sept – 5 Oct 2025, Osaka, Japan

The ASEFYLS6 Youth Summit will physically bring together over 80 participants to engage in people-to-people dialogue exchanges, networking and learning in a local context. The Summit will take place in Osaka, Japan alongside Japan World Expo 2025 and include the following elements:

- Presentation of Leadership in Action Activities at Japan World Expo 2025
- Thematic workshops and panel discussions
- Launch of the Asian & European-wide Youth Report

The Youth Summit will also provide space for participants and Navigators to join together and kick-start the spin-off actions. The Summit is co-organised by ASEF and the Japan Hub for Innovative Global Education (JIGE).

PARTICIPANTS FROM 50 COUNTRIES

The ASEFYLS format allows participants to build Asia-Europe connections and deepen their understanding of the diversity between the two regions. The Summit will engage:

- 80 students and young professionals (18-30 years old) from all 50 Asian and European countries with multiple educational disciplines and backgrounds, selected through an Open Call for Application
- 20+ Resource persons, including keynote speakers, panellists, moderators, trainers and volunteers from the following sectors:
 - Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Youth and Employment
 - International Organisations and Non-governmental Organisations
 - Businesses and the private sector
 - Academia and think-tanks
 - Local youth and communities

IMPACT

ASEFYLS creates a ripple effect of impact from Navigators to participants, to Asian & European Leaders and subsequently to communities all around Asia & Europe.

Impact is created in 3 areas:

Enhanced Asia-Europe intercultural awareness & global leadership amongst young people

- 94% of participants gained better insights into intercultural communication and collaboration
- 89% of participants developed their leadership skills for a global, interconnected world

Enhanced connectivity among Asian and European youth through peer-to-peer exchange and joint volunteering & collaborations

- Over 500 young people from Asia & Europe brought together for peer-to-peer exchange and collaboration since 2016
- 88% of participants still in contact after the projects, with 40% of them establishing new collaborations since together since their participation



PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASEFYLS6

The 6th ASEF Young Leaders Summit will be co-organised in strong partnership with the following organisations:

- Japan Hub for Innovative Global Education (JIGE)
 - Kansai University
 - Chiba University
 - Tohoku University
- College of Europe (Natolin)
- Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies
- TechForGood Institute
- UNDP Movers Programme

Furthermore, ASEFYLS6 will be supported by the key student and youth organisations in Asia and Europe:

- ASEAN Youth Organisation (AYO)
- Erasmus Student Network (ESN)
- European Students' Forum (AEGEE)
- All China Youth Federation (ACYF)
- Student Think Tank for Europe Asia Relations (STEAR)
- The European Law Students' Association (ELSA)
- European Students' Union (ESU)
- European Guanxi

ASEFYLS6 is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and ASEF's contribution is made possible with the financial support of the European Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

PAST EDITIONS

[1st ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS1\)](#)

"Entrepreneurship & Youth Employment"

In conjunction with the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12)
Luxembourg, 1-5 Nov 2015

[2nd ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS2\)](#)

"Access to Youth Employment"

In conjunction with the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (ASEM EMM7)
Seoul, Korea, 16-21 September 2017

[3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS3\)](#)

"Ethical Leadership"

In conjunction with the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12)
Brussels, Belgium, 15-19 October 2018

[4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS4\)](#)

"Sustainable Development in a Post-COVID-19 World"

In conjunction with the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13)
Virtual, Cambodia & Thailand, 2020-2022

[5th ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS5\)](#)

"Leadership in Society 5.0"

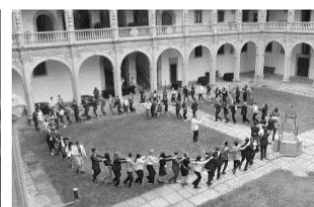
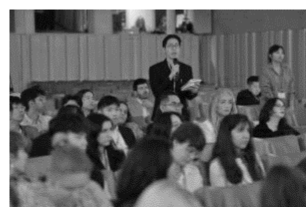
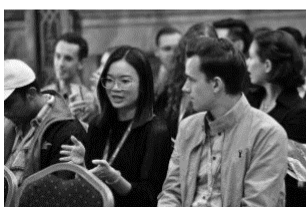
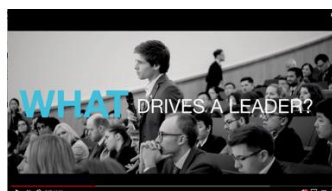
12-16 September 2023 in Salamanca, Spain

These visual testimonies illustrate the outcomes and atmosphere of past ASEFYLS projects:

Flickr Photo Albums

- [ASEFYLS1 Flickr album](#)
- [ASEFYLS2 Flickr album](#)
- [ASEFYLS3 Flickr album](#)
- [ASEFYLS5 Flickr Album](#)

YouTube videos



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ORGANISED BY

The 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 thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health. 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).

www.ASEF.org

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Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 11 July 2025

SUPPORTED BY: