

Asia-Europe SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE for Young Professionals

PROJECT REPORT

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Initiative for Young Professionals** is a new project of ASEF's Education Department as of 2024. In 2024, ASEF conducted research – mapping science and technology diplomacy strategies, initiatives, and stakeholders across 41 countries in Asia and Europe. The report provides insights and recommendations to the relevant institutions on areas for enhanced collaboration within and across the two regions.

In 2025, ASEF built on that research. Using the insights from the Asia-Europe Science and Technology Diplomacy Report, we looked for areas where ASEF could provide added value to this space. Through our work we have seen the value in bringing young professionals together, and in a field with no clear career paths, we decided to organise workshops to highlight initiatives across different countries in Asia, as well as the Asia-Europe Training and Youth Summit on Science & Technology Diplomacy - connecting young professionals engaged in international collaborations related to science, technology, and innovation in Asia and Europe.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Initiative for Young Professionals aims to:



INCREASE AWARENESS

Contribute with information available on Science Technology Diplomacy ecosystems, stakeholders, and activities across Asia and Europe



INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE

Facilitate intellectual exchange and increase the knowledge and skills in the context of Asia-Europe science relations and among young leaders



STRENGTHEN NETWORKS

Engage with academics, diplomats, professionals, and stakeholders in the Science Technology Diplomacy field, strengthening peer-to-peer connections and collaboration between stakeholders in Asia and Europe

KEY FACTS

Activities:

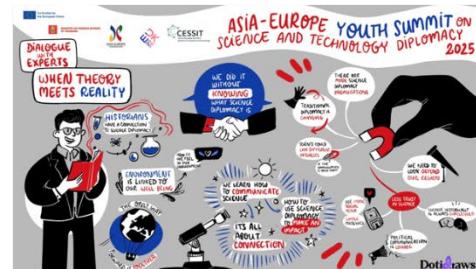
- **Country Focused Workshop Series**
15 Apr - 22 Jul | Online
- **Science Diplomacy Workshop for Young Researchers and Policymakers in the ASEAN Region**
1-2 Dec | Manila, Philippines
- **Asia-Europe Training on Science and Technology Diplomacy**
23 Oct - 4 Dec | Online
- **Asia-Europe Youth Summit on Science and Technology Diplomacy**
14-18 Dec | Copenhagen, Denmark

People Engaged:

- 119 participants
- 535 webinar attendees
- 80+ speakers and resource persons

Audience Reached:

- 234,000+ users reached via social media
- 57,000+ website visitors
- 2,200+ applicants
- 450+ audience reached at external events



HIGHLIGHTS & KEY STATISTICS

4
Country Focused Workshop Series Organised



730+
Participants and Resource Persons Engaged



2,000+
Registrations across 12 Country Focused Webinars



1
Youth Communiqué Delivered at the 2nd European Science Diplomacy Conference



4
Country Focused SciTech Diplo Ecosystem Reports to be published



96%
Reporting having developed a better understanding of Science and Technology Diplomacy in Asia and Europe

PROGRAMME ELEMENTS**COUNTRY FOCUSED WORKSHOP SERIES: NAVIGATING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY ECOSYSTEMS | 23 APRIL – 22 JULY 2025 | ONLINE**

The **Country Focused Workshop Series: Navigating Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystems** was organised with the aim to (1) increase awareness and information available on the S&T Diplomacy ecosystem of selected Asian countries, introduce key stakeholders and their activities, as well as (2) identify overlapping interest and potential avenues for collaboration between Asian and European stakeholders in S&T Diplomacy. In total, 4 countries were presented, each country being covered in 3 webinars, focusing on:

1. The Role of **Government** Strategy and Actions in the Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystem
2. The Role of **Academia and Research Institutions** in the Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystem
3. Workshop 3: The Role of **Businesses** in the Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystem

Read more about each session below or visit our website [here](#).

Recordings and Summary Reports

You can access the recordings from all 12 webinars from the 4 series on our website [here](#). There, you can also keep a look out for the publication of the Summary Reports for each Workshop Series – highlighting the main topics covered in each session.

MALAYSIA | 15-29 APRIL 2025

This workshop series shined a spotlight on Malaysia's rapidly evolving science diplomacy ecosystem, showcasing how national policies are unlocking new avenues for international collaboration, research commercialisation, and technological innovation through the country's strategic vision and forward-looking institutions, promoting sustainable development across Asia and beyond. Guest of Honour and Welcome address from:



Mr AMIZAL Fadzli Rajali
Undersecretary, OIC & Regional Cooperation Div, MFA, Malaysia;
ASEF Governor for Malaysia



Prof ZAKRI Abdul Hamid
Founding Director, Institute for Science Diplomacy and Sustainability, UCSI, Malaysia

The series was organised in partnership with the **International Institute for Science Diplomacy and Sustainability at UCSI University**, Malaysia and the **Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)**. Read more about the series [here](#).



KAZAKHSTAN | 3-17 JUNE 2025

This workshop series explored how Kazakhstan, through their national policies and international collaborations, is positioning itself as a rising Central Asian hub for innovation in agriculture, healthcare, engineering, and environmental sustainability. Guest of Honour and Welcome address from:

**Ambassador Askar KUTTYKADAM**

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Singapore, the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand; ASEF Governor for Kazakhstan

**Dr Aliya SEMBAYEVA**

Deputy Chairperson, Science Fund JSC

The series was organised in partnership with **Nazarbayev University** and the **National Center for Higher Education Development of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan**. Read more about the series [here](#).



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY

THAILAND | 7-21 JULY 2025

Through the series, we explored Thailand's decentralised Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) diplomacy model and how it empowers diverse stakeholders to pursue shared national goals with flexibility, supported by strong interagency coordination, global partnerships, and data-driven policymaking. Guest of Honour and welcome addresses were delivered by:



Mrs Chulamanee CHARTSUWAN
ASEF Governor for Thailand



Assoc. Prof. Wongkot WONGSAPAI
Vice President of the Office of the National Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO)

The series was organised in partnership with the **Office of National Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO)** and the **Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand, and EURAXESS ASEAN**. Read more about the series [here](#).

**INDONESIA | 8-22 JULY 2025**

In preparations for the World Science Forum 2026 in Jakarta, hosted by BRIN, we highlighted Indonesia's important role in the region. Indonesia is emerging as a dynamic force in Science and Technology Diplomacy, harnessing its vast natural resources, thriving innovation ecosystem, and strategic geopolitical position. Welcome addresses from:



Ambassador Soemadi BRODODININGRAT
ASEF Governor for Indonesia



Dr Laksana Tri HANDOKO
Chairman, National Research and Innovation Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BRIN)

The series was organised in partnership with **The National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia (BRIN)** and **EURAXESS ASEAN**. Read more about the series [here](#).



PROGRAMME ELEMENTS (continued)

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AND POLICYMAKERS IN THE ASEAN REGION | 1-2 DECEMBER 2025 | MANILA, PHILIPPINES

ASEF co-organised the 'Science Diplomacy Workshop for Young Researchers and Policymakers in the Asean Region' together with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines between 1-2 December in Manila, Philippines. The Workshop convened **12 early- to mid-career researchers and policymakers** from across ASEAN Member States to examine how science diplomacy can help tackle regional and global challenges.

The programme was designed to deepen participants' understanding of science diplomacy and its three core dimensions – diplomacy for science; science for diplomacy; and science in diplomacy – all within the context of ASEAN priorities. It also aimed to build participants' capacity to apply these principles in their professional contexts, strengthen cross-border collaboration, and generate ideas for future joint initiatives in the region.

Participants were welcomed with presentations from **Dr Glenn BANAGUAS**, Chairman of the Asian Science Diplomats, **Dr Orakanoke PHANRAKSA** from the National Science and Technology Development Agency of Thailand, **Undersecretary Leah BUENDIA** from DOST, **Prof. Anantha DURAIAPPAH**, the Inaugural Director of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education. Throughout the 2 days, they engaged in dialogue, exchanging their perspectives on Science and Technology Diplomacy, furthering their commitments in engaging in the interface between science, technology, and policy and diplomacy in the region and beyond.

Learn more about the full Workshop and ASEF's contributions on our website [here](#).

ASIA-EUROPE TRAINING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY 2025 | 23 OCT – 4 DEC 2025 | ONLINE

The [Asia-Europe Training on Science and Technology Diplomacy](#) was a 7-week-long online training, organised between 23 October to 4 December online. The Training offered a unique opportunity for young diplomats, government officials, and science & research managers working in the intersection of science, technology, and international relations, to come together to develop their knowledge of science and technology diplomacy.

In total, **107 participants** from 41 countries, selected from 2,200+ applicants, joined webinars and hands-on interactive workshops led by experts in the field, designed to build practical skills and foster cross-regional connections. They were below 35 years old representing one of the following groups:

- **Civil Society: Research or Science Managers**, having a supervisory or coordination role (e.g. managing research projects or teams, overseeing research areas, or supporting institutional research strategy), and are involved in international science, technology and innovation cooperation.
- **Government: Diplomats and Government Officials** working in the intersection of science, technology, innovation and international relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or relevant government institutions.



Over the course of the Training, the webinars and workshops covered topics the below topics. Selected sessions of the Training were open to the public as webinars. You can learn more about these sessions and [watch the recordings here](#).

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Thurs, 23 Oct* Introduction	Tues, 28 Oct Science Impacting Diplomacy Webinar Thurs, 30 Oct* Science Impacting Diplomacy Workshop	Tues, 4 Nov Diplomacy Impacting Science Webinar Thurs, 6 Nov* Diplomacy Impacting Science Workshop	Tuesday, 11 Nov* Quantum Diplomacy Simulation Thurs, 13 Nov* Quantum Diplomacy Simulation	Tues, 18 Nov Innovation & Technology Webinar Thurs, 20 Nov* Innovation & Technology Workshop	Tues, 25 Nov Personal and Cultural Awareness Webinar Thurs, 27 Nov* Personal and Cultural Awareness Workshop	Tues, 2 Dec Navigating Professional Diversity Webinar Thurs, 4 Dec* Learning From Practitioners Workshop

The sessions featured distinguished speakers from institutions and organisations such as:

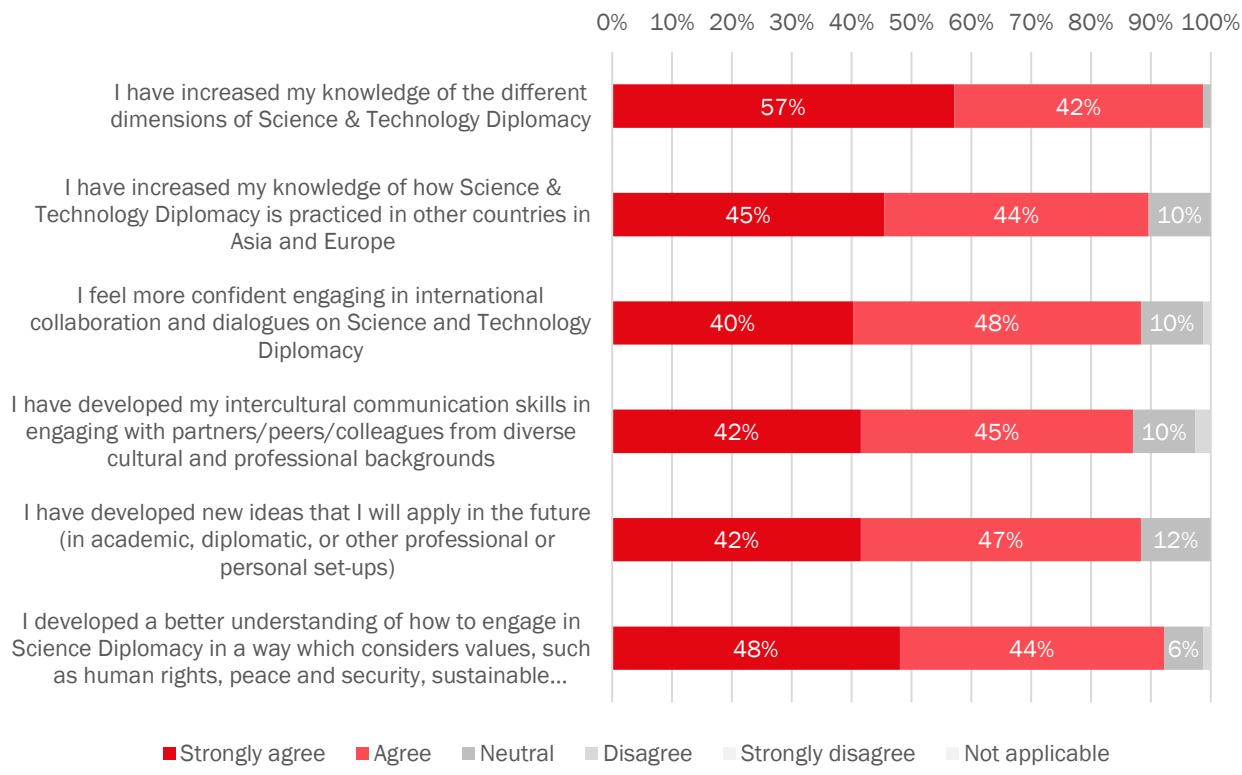
- UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)
- The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China
- The Office of National Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO), Thailand
- BRIN – National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia
- International Science Council (ISC) Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific
- The International Institute for Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS-UCSI)
- Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)
- The Tech Diplomacy Network, Austria
- The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland
- EUTOPIA European University
- United Nations University (UNU)
- The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore
- The German Aerospace Center (DLR) – Project Management Agency
- The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Philippines
- United Kingdom Science & Technology Network (UK STN)

FIRST TIME THE GESDA QUANTUM DIPLOMACY SIMULATION GAME WAS DELIVERED ONLINE



Together with [Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator \(GESDA\)](#), ASEF developed the GESDA Quantum Diplomacy game for an online setting – being the first organisers to facilitate the game online! This interactive simulation uses quantum-inspired scenarios around anticipating the future of scientific breakthroughs to help participants explore complex global challenges, negotiation dynamics, and decision-making under uncertainty. Participants gained practical experience in diplomacy, negotiation, strategic thinking, and teamwork.

Participants of the **Training** indicated how strongly they agree with the following statements



“ Taking part in this programme has been an invaluable experience for me, both professionally and personally. [...] The training helped me to see more clearly how universities [...] can act as diplomatic actors by building partnerships, facilitating knowledge exchange and translating scientific insights for policy and society. [...] I am leaving this training with new ideas and connections, and with a much deeper appreciation of the importance of science and technology diplomacy in shaping our shared future.

Francesco BEE
Participant from **Switzerland**



“ Taking part in the Asia-Europe Training [and Youth Summit] on Science and Technology Diplomacy was more than just a professional development opportunity; it represented a fundamental shift in my diplomatic paradigm. [...] From a junior diplomat perspective, the most impactful takeaway was the mastery of intercultural communication skills and the focus on equitable partnerships. The training illuminated how to navigate the complex geopolitical landscape of innovation, enabling me to move beyond simply receiving aid to strategically brokering and negotiating technology transfer for national benefit.

Chanmoneypetch TUY
Participant from **Cambodia**

PROGRAMME ELEMENTS (continued)

ASIA-EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY | 14-18 DECEMBER 2025 | COPENHAGEN DENMARK

40 selected participants from 29 countries from the online Training were invited to join the Asia-Europe Youth Summit on Science and Technology Diplomacy, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark and the Central European Scientific Society for Innovation and Technology (CESSIT).

The Asia-Europe Youth Summit on Science and Technology Diplomacy 2025 was organised alongside the [2nd European Science Diplomacy Conference](#), where the participants **presented the 'Asia-Europe Youth Communiqué on Science and Technology Diplomacy'**, sharing the youth perspectives on Science Diplomacy to the wider diplomatic and scientific community.



ASIA-EUROPE YOUTH COMMUNIQUÉ ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY

The Asia-Europe Youth Communiqué on Science & Technology Diplomacy is a **joint statement** by young professionals from 29 countries that sets out a shared vision for how science and technology can serve as a bridge between Asia and Europe in an era of global uncertainty. It highlights youth leaders' **commitment to use science and tech diplomacy to foster trust, address shared risks**, and promote inclusive, sustainable progress across both regions.

Developed during the Youth Summit and then delivered to ministers, diplomats, and experts at the 2nd European Science Diplomacy Conference in Copenhagen, the Communiqué distils a seven-week learning journey and three days of in-person dialogue into 20 concrete recommendations. Structured around five pillars—**Cooperation and Dialogue, Capacity Building, Equity and Inclusion, Ethics and Governance, and Sustainability and Social Impact**—it calls for stronger cross-border collaboration, clearer career pathways and training in science diplomacy, more equitable access to science and technology, responsible

standards for emerging technologies, and investments that maximise social and environmental impact. Together, these recommendations position young leaders as **constructive partners** for policymakers, urging that science and technology remain a trusted foundation for peace, resilience, and shared prosperity in Asia and Europe. You can read the full document [here](#).





EXTERNAL EVENTS

ENGAGEMENT IN EXTERNAL AND HIGH-VISIBILITY EVENTS

NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF COOPERATION AND COMPETITION SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN ROMANIA AND HUNGARY | 11 MARCH 2025, ONLINE

ASEF was invited to present the findings from the 'Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report' (published early 2025) at the conference on 'Navigating the Intersection of Cooperation and Competition Science Diplomacy in Romania and Hungary'.

The 1-day hybrid conference was hosted by Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania and, under the title of 'Navigating the Intersection of Cooperation and Competition Science Diplomacy in Romania and Hungary' and was attended by 35+ representatives of Science Diplomacy Stakeholders, students and higher education professionals from Hungary and Romania, and brought together speakers from both Asia and Europe.

Learn more about the conference and ASEF's contributions [here](#).

EUSDA AND UNESCO WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ALONGSIDE THE GLOBAL MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY | 27 MARCH 2025, ONLINE

ASEF was invited to speak in the workshop "Science Diplomacy Training: Objectives, Practices and Recommendations" on 27 March 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, held alongside the Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy. The event brought together policymakers, science attachés, trainers, international organisations and researchers to translate high-level commitments on science diplomacy into concrete training and capacity-building actions.

Discussions focused on mapping existing science diplomacy training efforts worldwide, identifying skills needs, and outlining best practices and gaps to inform future programmes and a competency framework. ASEF, contributed to the session on training trends, presenting findings from the Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report and highlighting key providers, topics and approaches across 41 countries.

Learn more about the event [here](#), and about ASEF's contributions [here](#).

DIALOGUE PARTNERS SESSION ON CRAFTING AN ASEAN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ROADMAP IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 21ST ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON STI (AMMSTI-21) AND THE 87TH ASEAN COMMITTEE ON STI MEETING (COSTI-87) | 19 JUNE 2025, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

On 19 June 2025, ASEF joined the Dialogue Partners Session on crafting an ASEAN Science Diplomacy Roadmap in Jakarta, coinciding with the 21st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation. Stakeholders from Southeast Asia convened to harness science diplomacy for advancing regional sustainability and cooperation goals.

ASEF presented the analysis from the Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report, spotlighting trends across Asia and Europe (including nine ASEAN members) in areas like AI, biotech, space tech and global challenges. Conversations centered on building ASEAN's strategic edge through tailored diplomacy tools. Proposals included developing a dedicated roadmap, a foresight hub for the region, diplomat training programs and broader stakeholder involvement to elevate ASEAN's role in international science diplomacy.

Learn more about the conference and ASEF's contributions [here](#).

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT**99% INCREASED KNOWLEDGE**

of participants of the Training indicate acknowledge that their knowledge of the different dimensions of Science & Technology Diplomacy has increased

90% BUILDING CONNECTIONS

of participants of the Training indicate that they have built closer connections with their peers from the other own region (Asia/Europe)

91% CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT ON THE TOPIC

of the participants will continue to engage further on the topic of Science & Technology Diplomacy as a result of their participation in the Training

PARTICIPANTS OF THE TRAINING AND YOUTH SUMMIT SAID

“Participating in this programme has been a deeply meaningful experience. The topics covered were highly relevant to my role as a government official who must engage not only with international counterparts but also with diverse stakeholders such as academia, industry conglomerates, and civil society. [...] What stood out most was the shared spirit among participants. Despite our individual differences, I learned through our discussions [...] that many of us are driven by the same goal: to contribute to a better, more collaborative world.

Sean THUM
Participant from **Malaysia**



“Participating in the Asia-Europe Training on Science & Technology Diplomacy was a truly valuable experience. The programme gave me a chance to learn about the connections between science, technology, and diplomacy in a very practical way. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with participants from so many different countries and professional backgrounds. Hearing their perspectives broadened my own understanding and showed me how collaboration across cultures can lead to better solutions.

Goldina NAGY
Participant from **Hungary**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **Country Focused Workshop Series** titled “Navigating Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystems
 - [Overview](#)
 - [Malaysia](#)
 - [Kazakhstan](#)
 - [Thailand](#)
 - [Indonesia](#)
- **Asia-Europe Training and Youth Summit on Science and Technology Diplomacy**
 - [Overview](#)
 - [Training Programme](#)
 - [Training Participants' Booklet](#)
 - [Youth Summit Programme](#)

ORGANISED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



EARMARKED FUNDERS:



The United Kingdom

GENERAL FUNDERS:



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

SUPPORTED BY:

