

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE
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europe_foundation](https://www.flickr.com/photos/asia-europe-foundation/)**19th ASEF Classroom Network Conference:
70+ educators from Asia and Europe meet
in Austria to explore human agency in the
age of AI**

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), together with Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol (PH Tirol) and international partners, with support from the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Education, will bring 70+ educators and education leaders from across Asia and Europe to Innsbruck, Austria from 21 -25 September 2026 for the [ASEFClassNet19 Conference](#), under the theme “Future-Ready Teaching: Human Agency in the Age of AI”. The conference will explore how Artificial Intelligence can strengthen rather than diminish teacher and learner agency.

At a time when AI is reshaping teaching and learning, ASEFClassNet19 asks a central question: **how can education benefit from AI while ensuring that teachers and learners remain active decision-makers?** The conference will explore this through keynotes, workshops, peer learning, a policy–practice roundtable, Austrian innovative school visits and an Innovation Award, connecting human judgement, critical reasoning and professional agency with the realities of AI-enabled classrooms.

The conference welcomes senior representatives and education leaders, including Mr ZHANG Lei, Deputy Executive Director of ASEF; Ambassador Sylvia MEIER-KAJBIC, ASEF Governor for Austria; Ms Elisabeth MAYR, Deputy Mayor of the City of Innsbruck; and Dr Professor Regine MATHIES, Rector of PH Tyrol. They will join educators, researchers and partners from across Asia and Europe in opening the conference and contributing to the wider dialogue on the future of education.

A central feature is the work of participating teachers, who have already co-designed and implemented Innovative Teaching Practices (ITPs) across Asian and European schools prior to coming to the conference. In Innsbruck, they will share results, receive peer feedback and further strengthen their ideas, alongside contributions from leading education voices including Professor Ronghuai HUANG (UNESCO Chair for AI in Education, Beijing Normal University), Dr Kevin MARTIN (DEFI, University of Cambridge), Professor Seng Chee TAN (NIE Singapore, Nanyang Technological University) and Dr Tim CRANE (Central European University).

ASEFClassNet19 is organised by ASEF in partnership with PH Tirol, Knowledge in Crisis at Central European University, the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (under the auspices of UNESCO) and the Jožef Stefan Institute, with support from the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education.

Through this conference, ASEFClassNet19 aims to ensure that educators are not passive recipients of technological change, but active contributors to shaping a more human-centred future of education.

ASEF welcomes the attendance of journalists and media representatives who are interested in the topic and reporting about the conference. Please contact com@asef.org to confirm your attendance.

About the Asia-Europe Foundation

ASEF is an inter-governmental 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 peoples, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF has run more than 280 projects, mainly seminars, workshops and lectures, together with over 230 partner organisations. www.asef.org

About the Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM is an inter-governmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. It comprises 53 partners: 21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU. www.ASEMinfoboard.org

About the ASEF Classroom Network (ASEFClassNet)

The ASEF Classroom Network (ASEFClassNet) connects educators from Asia and Europe through professional learning, intercultural collaboration and teacher-led educational innovation. The programme supports teachers to learn from one another across national and cultural contexts, jointly design innovative teaching practices and translate new ideas into meaningful classroom experiences.

<https://asef.org/programmes/asef-classroom-network-asef-classnet/>

About Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol (PH Tirol)

The University College of Teacher Education Tyrol (Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol), located in Innsbruck, Austria, is a university college dedicated to teacher education and professional development in education. It offers scientifically grounded and practice-oriented Bachelor's and master's programs for future teachers across primary and secondary levels, including specialized tracks like general education, vocational education, and applied digital skills, as well as continuing education and professional training for educators. PH TIROL also engages in educational research, school development support, and international exchange programs such as Erasmus+, emphasizing lifelong learning and competence development for teaching professionals in Austria and beyond. <https://www.ph-tirol.ac.at/>

About Knowledge in Crisis (KiC)

The Knowledge in Crisis (KiC) brings together more than 50 philosophers to investigate the contemporary crises of knowledge, truth and expertise. In addition to our research, we aim to train the next generation of philosophers and regularly share our ideas outside of the university through extensive public communication and knowledge transfer initiatives. Led by Central European University in partnership with University of Graz, University of Salzburg, and University of Vienna, KiC is supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) under the Clusters of Excellence programme. <https://www.knowledgeincrisis.com/>