

**STATEMENT BY THE MOFA SPOKESPERSON OF VIET NAM
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ASEM DAY (01/3/2018)**

Today is the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Day. Viet Nam, as a founding member of ASEM, welcomes this important celebration.

On 1 March 1996, ASEM was founded by 26 Leaders from Asia and Europe as a bridge that connects our two continents. After two decades, ASEM has grown beyond initial expectations and established itself as a platform for enhanced connectivity between countries, civilisations, peoples and businesses of the two continents. ASEM has been instrumental in forging links and multi-layered cooperation for peace and development.

As ASEM enters the third decade, the regional and global landscape is experiencing rapid and more complex developments. ASEM is at a critical juncture of transformation. We should continue to foster a stronger and more dynamic partnership between Asia and Europe to effectively address today's challenges, while upholding the ASEM's cardinal values and principles of equality, mutual respect and benefit.

Viet Nam always attaches importance to and put high priority on the joint efforts to uplift ASEM cooperation and promote Asia-Europe connectivity through ASEAN Community, existing partnerships, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation and linkages. With extensive international integration and proactive multilateral diplomacy, Viet Nam will continue to work with other ASEM members to build a vision towards a responsible and responsive ASEM in the evolving landscape./.