



Asia-Europe Meeting

**ASEM CONFERENCE ON INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AND
HUMAN RESOURCE BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Hue City, Viet Nam, 30 – 31 March 2017

Co-sponsored by Finland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam

CONCEPT PAPER

BACKGROUND

The world is at the door of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. With its profound and far-reaching impacts, this upcoming technical revolution is expected to transform the way we live and work unlike anything mankind has ever experienced before. New jobs and even new types of job requiring of a completely new set of skills are expected to emerge exceptionally soon if not already set in motion. According to the World Economic Forum, 65% children today will work in new job types and functions that currently do not yet exist. This shift in skills demand would require an ultimate change in skills supply. Under the Fourth Industrial Revolution led by AI, robotics, and biotechnology, it is predicted that simple repetitive work will disappear while jobs which require creativity will be on the rise. In line with the changing employment structure, the labour market demands for those who are not only equipped with problem-solving abilities, but are also able to generate new ideas by converging different fields of knowledge and academic disciplines, which must be backed up by creativity. Nevertheless, the current education system would not be sufficient enough to provide the workforce with the right set of skills required in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As such, the United Nations have highlighted the need to “substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship” as one of its goals in the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The UN’ Secretary-General has called on governments to align education and training systems with labour market needs. The ILO also emphasises on promoting social dialogue to discuss the Future of Work Initiative.

At the 10th ASEM Summit in Milan in 2014, Leaders emphasized the role of education, in particular higher education, lifelong learning and vocational education and training, for human resource development and considered it to be a key enabling factor in promoting sustainable and inclusive development, innovation and poverty reduction. They, therefore, committed to improving employability and facilitating school-to-work transition and strengthening policies, programs and cooperation to facilitate efforts in ensuring the labour force which possesses the requisite knowledge and skills.

Against this background, “*the ASEM Conference on Innovative Education and Human Resource Building for Sustainable Development*” responds directly to the commitment of the ASEM Leaders. The Conference provides a platform for ASEM members to validate best practices in promoting quality and innovative education for human resource development and consolidate proposals for ASEM’s new Vision for Education, including ASEM’s new Skills Agenda, and concrete measures to equip young generation with 21st century skills and qualities needed to achieve a skilled, adaptable and professional workforce in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote regional and inter-regional cooperation on sharing best practices and experiences among ASEM members and relevant institutions in quality and innovative education and human resource development, especially in ICT application, transnational education, technical vocational education and training, and creative talent.
- To enhance collaborations among policymakers, government officials, businesses, youths and other stakeholders in Asia and Europe to engage in and support for the integration of 21st century skills into the existing educational system.
- To identify the policies needed and recommendations in such areas as educational policies, human capital, financial resources and technological infrastructure, to build the next generation workforce.
- To foster ASEM cooperation in education as a contribution of Asia-Europe members to achieve the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Goal 4.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Outcomes of the event, including views, ideas, recommendations, initiatives and results of other side-lined activities will be reflected in a summary report, which will be presented at the 6th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting in 2017, the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2017 and the 12th ASEM Summit in 2018.
- Visions and concrete measures and recommendations to promote innovative education and a high quality, highly-skilled workforce for a sustainable future can be achieved and implemented with the assistance from all ASEM members.
- A network of policymakers, government officials, educational practitioners, universities, businesses, researchers etc to be established to share experience and best practices in innovative education and human resource building.

DATE AND VENUE

The two-day Meeting will be organized in Hue City, Viet Nam on 30 – 31 March 2017. An ASEM University Exhibition and Open Day on the sideline of the main Conference would be considered.

PARTICIPATION

The Conference is expected to attract approximately 200 participants, including government officials, senior policy-makers, researchers, educators, practitioners, universities, businesses, related regional and international organizations and other stake holders.

CO-SPONSORS

ASEM members are invited to co-sponsor the initiative. Co-sponsors will be responsible for sending chairs/speakers to the Conference, giving comments on the concept paper, provisional agenda and the tentative program as well as coordinating with the host in inviting the guest speakers. Any contributions either in cash or in-kind, on a voluntary basis, are mostly welcomed.

COSTS

Viet Nam, as the host, will cover organising costs. Participants are kindly requested to cover their own travelling and accommodation expenses.

CONTACT DETAILS

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