



Concept Note
ASEM Youth Dialogue



Confederation of Indian Industry



Background:

The Asia - Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a formal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, 2 other European countries and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions in a spirit of mutual respect, equal partnership and enhancing mutual understanding to facilitate and stimulate progress in other for a. However, it does not duplicate what is being done within bilateral and other multilateral relationships within Asia.

India is a member of the Working Group on the 20th anniversary celebrations of ASEM and as part of India's commitment to the celebrations, it is proposed to have the ASEM youth dialogue on 26 March 2016* at the Taj Palace, New Delhi. The objective of this engagement would be to focus on strengthening youth links between Asia and Europe, in particular closer people-to-people contacts which are indispensable for the promotion of greater awareness and understanding between the two regions by creating new networking links and mutual understanding through entrepreneurial, cultural, artistic, educational activities and exchanges.

[* Yi is organizing the **12th National Summit, 'TakePRIDE 2016'** on 25-26 March 2016 at the Taj Palace, New Delhi. **TakePride2016** is about recognizing and celebrating the power of youth. This groundbreaking event will bring together statesmen, political and business leaders, thinkers and writers, stars and savants, heroes and youth icons - a microcosm of exceptional minds that will enrich the multitude of Young Indians. Yi looks forward to hosting the overseas delegates and panelists of ASEM as their honored guests for both days of this summit, which also takes place at the Taj Palace, the venue of the ASEM interactions (www.takepride.me)]

Format and Discussion Topics

A half-day program, addressing promotion of business linkages between youth across ASEM countries is being organized under the ASEM Youth Dialogue. The Introductory session to begin at 0930 hrs will be graced by senior dignitaries from the ASEM countries, including India. This session will set the tone for the dialogue. *This session will be followed by panel discussions on 'The way forward for Asia-Europe: A Youth Perspective' and 'Strategic choices for equitable development'. A small note on these topics are as follows:*

The way forward for Asia-Europe: A Youth Perspective (Panel Discussion I)

Over the past two decades, EU-Asia relations have strengthened considerably. The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was established and has grown significantly, with EU becoming an active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum. It has signed and is negotiating free trade agreements with Asian partners. The session will seek to answer questions such as: How can this partnership be intensified and structured?; What are the mutual benefits from enhanced cooperation?; Addressing the new challenges between Asia and Europe through the youth and to identify potential through new initiatives and enhance the existing ones. This panel discussion will focus on 'A Way Forward for Asia-Europe: A Youth Perspective' and address challenges and opportunities of young people in realizing the enormous potential that exists between the region at large.

Strategic Choices for Equitable Development (Panel Discussion II)

Sustainable development, means making conscious strategic choices leading to greater environmental concern. The economic and social repercussions of choices needs to be considered alongside an ever-increasing trend of globalization without compromising on the social development. This issue has wide-reaching consequences on a global scale and therefore common strategies and solutions must be identified. Between Asia and Europe, a bi-regional approach by means of dialogue, mutual understanding and common ground is one way that this subject can be brought to the forefront of a wider agenda. Involvement of youth dialogue with Government and international organizations can help to work towards a holistic approach towards sustainable and equitable development.

During these discussions, it is expected that the speakers and panelists shall share their experiences from their respective countries to discuss and debate, thereby focusing on challenges and opportunities. The discussion will be moderated with panelists taking the lead from questions asked by the moderator and thereafter engaging with the audience, which shall comprise of members from various ASEM countries.

Benefits of Youth Dialogue:

- Achieve a constructive dialogue and exchange of best practices on youth issues and youth policies among the countries concerned
- Facilitate direct communication between young leaders of the ASEM members who shall be the torch bearers of this relationship and continually work toward enhancing the same.

Participation:

- The participants would include delegates from the stakeholder groups indicated above and it is expected that around 50 members would sign in.

Expected Outcome:

The expected outcomes of this session are the following:

- Identification of opportunities for collaboration between ASEM youth organizations.
- Enhanced business exchanges between young entrepreneurs of ASEM countries.
- Learning from each other's experiences and sharing of best practices.

Cost:

There is no participation fee for the dialogue. The host will cover the organizing costs. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Language:

The working language of the program will be English.

Organizers:

- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- The Confederation of Indian Industry
- Young Indians

The broad suggested flow of the ASEM youth dialogue would be as follows:

Broad flow of the programme:

0930 – 1030 hrs : Inaugural Session

1045 – 1200 hrs : Panel Discussion I - 'The way forward for Asia-Europe: A Youth Perspective'.

1200 – 1315 hrs : Panel Discussion 2 - 'Strategic choices for equitable development'

1315 – 1400 hrs : Concluding Session

Panelists (TBC):

- **Alex Mitchell**, Founder of Causarma, Co-Founder of Young Brits Network & Kit Us Out (UK)
- **Sandor P Mohacsi**, Managing Director, commlab GmbH audiovisuelle kommunikation (Germany)
- **Luca P Donelli**, Vice President, European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs (Italy)
- **Dimitris Tsingos**, Founder & CEO, StartTech Ventures and CEO & Founder, Virtual Trip (Greece)
- **Victor Sedov**, President & CEO, Centre for Entrepreneurship (Russia)

- **Jeremy Liddle**, CEO CapitalPitch (Australia)
- **Patrik Kovacs**, President, Young Entrepreneurs of the European Union (Hungary)
- **Michael Lee**, CEO & Founder at CreBiz Factory and President & Co-Founder, YES Korea (South Korea)
- **Xia BING**, Founder & President, KHT Consulting & Founder, NovoNation Youth Community (China)
- **Shaurya Veer Himatsingka**, National Chairman, Yi & Dy MD, India Carbon Ltd (India)
- **Anura Athukorala**, Managing Director, Athukorala Group (P) Ltd (Srilanka)
- **Ejaj Ahmad**, Founder & President, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (Bangladesh)
- **Shaban Khalid**, President, Young Entrepreneurs Forum (YEF) & Director, Ittehad Steel (Pakistan)
- **Representative from the Global Entrepreneurship Program** (Indonesia)
- **Nurliyana Fatin Arifin**, President, CAYE-Asia & Founder, Confentinc.(Brunei Darussalam)
- **Adnan Shahid**, Chief Commercial Officer, PTCL (Pakistan)
- **Raymond Huang**, Chairman, Kairos Asia Consultancy Pte Ltd, Founder, Heartware Network (Singapore)
- **Varun Lohia**, Executive Director, Lohia Group of Companies & Founding Member & VP, NYEF (Nepal)

About the organisers:

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society through advisory and consultative processes. It is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization playing a proactive role in India's development process. (www.cii.in)

Young Indians (Yi) is an integral part and strategic partner of CII formed in the year 2002 with an objective of creating a platform for young Indians to realize the dream of a developed nation. It has around 2500 direct members in 38 chapters (cities) across 27 states in India and engages around 11000 students under the brand 'Yuva'. "To become the Voice of Young Indians Globally" being the vision of Yi, it provides a platform for young Indians to participate in and contribute by becoming an integral part of the India growth story (www.youngindians.net)