



Asia-Europe Meeting

CONCEPT PAPER

ASEM Symposium on “Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development” 25–26 May 2017, Bangkok

Rationale

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the world’s Leaders at the 70th Session of the United Nation General Assembly in 2015 underlines the need for international commitment and cooperation in addressing development gap, environmental crisis and economic injustice. Having officially come into effect on 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets call for implementation to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity through global partnership.

In response, at the 11th ASEM Summit in July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, ASEM Leaders highlighted sustainable development as a key area of cooperation in the third decade of ASEM, as reflected in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration on ASEM into the Third Decade. The Chair’s Statement of the 11th ASEM Summit also underlined the importance of integrating the SDGs into national development plans and to ensure its implementation at the national and international level. Furthermore, the Summit also agreed to promote further collaboration and sharing of best practice and experience among ASEM Partners.

ASEM, as an inter-regional platform driven by the principle of flexibility and equal partnership, provides a unique opportunity not only for governments but also non-governmental partners to forge cooperation and engage in joint activities among ASEM members. It is the partnership that allows us to best utilize our complementary strengths and diversity through sharing and exchanging experiences and best practices to strive towards our common goals in reducing development gaps, mainstreaming sustainable growth, and bringing about prosperity in all countries of the two regions where no one is left behind.

Thailand reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the SDGs. We have adopted the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as a means to achieve balanced use of resources, social capital, environmental reserves and cultural wealth for a more sustainable path of economic growth. The SEP has led Thailand on a path of gradual but steady growth over the past 40 years, graduating to middle-income country status. It has also helped Thailand achieve nearly all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and continues to be a guiding principle for Thailand in our attempt to achieve the SDGs.

As there is no one-size-fit-all solution to sustainable development, Thailand has been at the forefront of promoting alternative approaches to sustainable development. The SEP is an approach which Thailand is keen to share with ASEM Partners in our quest for a sustainable path to development.

Objectives

1. To promote sharing of experiences, best practices and expertise among ASEM members with regard to policy, practices and method for implementation of the SDGs;
2. To provide a platform for networking and forging partnership among ASEM members for future collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs through various approaches.

Date and Venue

25-26 May 2017 in Bangkok

Participants

Invitation will be extended to all ASEM SOM Leaders, relevant international organisations, development organisations, interested think tanks, as well as other academia and interested stakeholders .

Co-sponsors

ASEM members are invited to co-sponsor the Symposium by sending speakers for each of the sessions.

Contact

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