



7th Model ASEM

In conjunction with the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11)
“20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for Future through Connectivity”

6-10 July 2016 • Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Intervention¹

Student Representative of the 7th Model ASEM

On the occasion of the 11th ASEM Summit, 15-16 July 2016, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Your Excellencies,

It is a milestone that on this 20th anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process, youth is represented here today. We would like to express our gratitude to the Chair of the 11th ASEM Summit and all ASEM partners for this opportunity.

We represent 130 students who participated in the 7th Model ASEM on 6-10 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. During a simulation of the 11th ASEM Summit, we put ourselves in your position and debated the future direction of ASEM under the theme “20 Years ASEM: Partnership for Future through Connectivity”.

We began to empathise with the challenges faced by you, the ASEM Leaders of both regions. However, we also saw – through the lens of youth – our own specific issues facing Asia and Europe. These views have been supported by an ASEM-wide survey of over 3,900 young people on ASEM’s past achievements and future prospects.²

The youth agreed that ASEM should in particular focus on social, environmental and economic connectivity.

Firstly, *social connectivity*: We urge ASEM Leaders to foster connectedness across all members of society on the inclusion of youth and women. Investment in quality and inclusive education is the way for these groups to actively participate in their societies.

Secondly, *environmental connectivity*: Climate change is a reality. The ratification of the Paris Agreement by all ASEM partners is vital in mitigating the consequences of our

¹ The oral intervention statement delivered at the 11th ASEM Summit might differ slightly from this written version.

² The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) conducted an ASEM-wide youth survey as part of the Open Call Application process of the 7th Model ASEM. 3925 participants from all 51 ASEM countries took part in the survey. The results are found through the following link: http://www.asef.org/images/docs/7thModelASEM_SurveyResults.pdf.

previous actions. We strongly urge the ASEM Leaders to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Secondly, *economic connectivity*: Youth unemployment is a critical problem. Echoing the outcome of last year's ASEM Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS) on "Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment" at the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12) in Luxembourg, policies and programmes that generate employment and decent work are crucial. It is essential to harness this generation's entrepreneurial spirit and to encourage young people to establish and grow their own businesses.

While entering ASEM's third decade, we urge you, as custodians of this process, to strive for enhanced partnerships across our two continents and to set the priorities on societal engagement and education, climate change, and employment and entrepreneurship.

As young representatives of the 51 ASEM countries, we support you in this endeavour.

Thank you for your attention.

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