



# 7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7) Students' Forum 11–15 May 2019 | Rectors' Conference 12–14 May 2019

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Perspectives from Asia and Europe

## Rectors' Conference Programme



Co-organised by



In Partnership with



ASEF's contribution is made possible with the financial support of the European Union.

## Programme Overview

Synergies with ARC7 Students' Forum and ASEM Education Senior Officials' and Ministers' Meeting

Saturday 11 May	Sunday 12 May	Monday 13 May	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
	<b>STUDENTS' FORUM</b>				
	<b>RECTORS' CONFERENCE</b>			<b>CULTURAL VISIT</b>	
			<b>SOM</b>	<b>MINISTERS' MEETING</b>	

## Draft Programme

\*Speakers' confirmation is in progress\*

### Sunday, 12 May 2019

**Venue | InterContinental Bucharest**

Bulevardul Nicolae Bălcescu 4, Bucureşti 010051, Romania

08:00 – 17:00	Participants arriving throughout the day
17:00 – 19:00	Registration at Hotel InterContinental Bucharest
19:00 – 22:00	Welcome Reception for Rectors including participants of the Students' Forum

### Monday, 13 May 2019

**Venue | Palace of the Parliament**

2-4 Izvor street, district 5 Bucharest, 050561 Romania

08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Remus PRICOPIE</b>, Rector, National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)</li> <li>▪ <b>HE Karsten WARNECKE</b>, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</li> </ul>
09:15 – 09:45	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p><b>HE Klaus IOHANNIS</b>, President of Romania</p>
09:45 – 10:45	<p><b>Opening Panel Discussion 1</b></p> <p><b>Taking Action at Home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance</b></p> <p>The aim of this session is to demonstrate how universities can make best use of their abilities and capacities to address the Sustainable Development Goals. Panellists will discuss visions and missions of universities within the framework of the sustainable development agenda, and the ability of institutions to link knowledge, research, education to contribute to the SDGs. The importance of cherishing values (like academic freedom, autonomy, participation) will be also discussed, and ways of balancing it with the more “technical” or “utilitarian” tasks</p>

and demands.

- **Prof Michael MURPHY**, President, European University Association (EUA)
- **Prof Anne PAKIR**, Associate Vice President (University & Global Relations), National University of Singapore
- **Prof Sorin Mihai CÎMPEANU**, President, L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF); Rector, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest; former Minister of National Education of Romania
- **Ms Katrina KOPPEL**, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU)

Moderated by **Prof Remus PRICOPIE**, Rector, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

10:45 – 11:00

### ARC Origins, Mission and Vision

11:00 – 11:30

Family Photo and Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00

### Working Group Sessions Part 1

The Working Group Sessions are facilitated discussions to exchange good practices and discuss the Policy Recommendations (PRs) of rectors to the ASEM Ministers of Education. The PRs will be pre-drafted by the Conference Organising Committee and circulated among participants before the conference. Participants can select from among 6 parallel Working Group sessions along the 3 themes of ARC7:

#### Theme 1. Taking Action at Home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance

##### Working Group 1A

- **Prof Bundhit EUA-ARPORN**, President, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- **Dr Àngels FITÓ BERTRAN**, Vice President for Competitiveness and Employability, Open University of Catalonia, Spain

Facilitated by **Dr Chantavit SUJATANOND**, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)

##### Working Group 1B

- **Prof John O'HALLORAN**, Deputy President and Registrar, University College Cork, Ireland
- **Professor Jongryn MO**, Executive Director, Hills Governance Center, Korea

Facilitated by **Ms Thérèse ZHANG PULKOWSKI**, Deputy Director, Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association (EUA)

#### Theme 2. Taking Action at Community Level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact

##### Working Group 2A

- **Mag. Friedrich FAULHAMMER**, Rector, Danube University of Krems, Austria
- **Prof Tan Sri Dzulkifli ABDUL RAZAK**, Rector, International Islamic University Malaysia

##### Working Group 2B

- **Prof Carmen SAMMUT**, Pro Rector for Student & Staff Affairs and Outreach, University of Malta
- **Prof Ir Panut MULYONO**, Rector, University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

Facilitated by **Dr Choltis DHIRATHITI**, Executive Director, ASEAN University Network (AUN)

Facilitated by **Dr WANG Libing**, Chief of Section, Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education UNESCO Bangkok

### Theme 3. Taking Action at International Level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation

#### Working Group 3A

- **Prof Ashish BHARADWAJ**, Executive Director, Office of Rankings, Benchmarking and Institutional Transformation (ORBIT), O.P. Jindal Global University, India
- **Prof Alpaslan ÖZERDEM**, Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Coventry University, United Kingdom

Facilitated by **Mr Sebastian SPERLICH**, Head of Section Sustainable Development, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

#### Working Group 3B

- **Prof James TANG**, Secretary-General, The University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, China
- **Prof Vladimir Mikhaylovich FILIPPOV**, Rector, People's Friendship University of Russia (tbc)

Facilitated by **Mr Giorgio MARINONI**, Manager for HE and Internationalization policy the International Association of Universities (IAU)

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch and speed dating with student leaders from Asia and Europe

14:00 – 15:30

#### Working Group Sessions Part 2

The Working Group Sessions are facilitated discussions to exchange good practices and discuss the Policy Recommendations (PRs) of rectors to the ASEM Ministers of Education. The PRs will be pre-drafted by the Conference Organising Committee and circulated among participants before the conference. Participants can select from among 6 parallel Working Group sessions along the 3 themes of ARC7:

### Theme 1. Taking Action at Home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance

#### Working Group 1A

- **Prof Dr. Regina VALUTYTE**, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania (tbc)
- University Leader, University in China (tba)

Facilitated by **Dr Chantavit SUJATONOND**, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)

#### Working Group 1B

- **Prof Dr Dieter LENZEN**, President, University of Hamburg, Germany (tbc)
- University Leader, University in Asia (tba)

Facilitated by **Ms Thérèse ZHANG PULKOWSKI**, Deputy Director, Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association (EUA) (confirmed)

## Theme 2. Taking Action at Community Level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact

### Working Group 2A

- **Prof Martin HELLSTRÖM**, Vice-Chancellor, University West, Sweden
- **Dr Joyce TEO Siew Yean**, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Facilitated by **Dr Choltis DHIRATHITI**, Executive Director, ASEAN University Network (AUN)

### Working Group 2B

- **Prof Melinda dela Pena BANDALARIA**, Chancellor of the Open University, President of the Asian Association of Open Universities, The Philippines
- **Dr Imran UDDIN**, Vice-Rector, Artevelde University College Ghent, Belgium

Facilitated by **Dr WANG Libing**, Chief of Section, Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education UNESCO Bangkok

## Theme 3. Taking Action at International level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation

### Working Group 3A

- **Prof Maria de LURDES CORREIA FERNANDES**, Vice-Rector for Education, Academic Affairs and International Cooperation, University of Porto, Portugal
- **Dr Tran Tien KHOA**, Rector, International University, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Facilitated by **Mr Sebastian SPERLICH**, Head of Section Sustainable Development, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

### Working Group 3B

- **Prof Katherine BELOV**, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Sydney, Australia
- **Ambassador Prof Adam JELONEK**, Rector's Proxy for Internationalization, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Facilitated by **Mr Giorgio MARINONI**, Manager for HE and Internationalisation Policy, International Association of Universities (IAU) (confirmed)

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

### Panel Discussion 2

#### Taking Action at a Community Level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact

The aim of this session is to review the different approaches how higher education actors (universities, students, regional networks) can play together to realise the SDGs, engage local communities and civil society in providing sustainable research and teaching, how can they translate the global goals into local actions, and what is the added value that SDGs can provide in these partnerships.

- **Ms Tuula ANTOLA**, Director for Economic and Urban Development, City of Espoo, Mayor's Office, Finland
- **Prof Pam FREDMAN**, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Gothenburg, Sweden; President of the International Association of Universities (IAU)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Diep Tuan TRAN</b>, President, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, VietNam</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof XU Ningsheng</b>, President, Fudan University, China (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Prof Michel RICARD</b>, Head of the UNESCO Chair "Education, training and research on sustainable development", France (tbc)</p>
17:00 – 18:00	<p><b>Leadership Swap Sessions led by students</b></p> <p>The Leadership Swap Sessions are facilitated by student leaders, who bring fresh ideas to the table and nudge participants to look at problems from a different perspective. There will be 6 parallel sessions organised on different topics related to the conference.</p>
18:00 – 19:00	Refreshments
19:00 – 22:00	<p><b>Dinner and Cultural Evening</b></p> <p>with the 51 Students' Forum participants from the 51 ASEM countries at the <b>National Museum of Art of Romania</b>, Calea Victoriei 49-53, București 010063, Romania</p>

## Tuesday, 14 May 2019

**Venue | Palace of the Parliament**

2-4 Izvor street, district 5 Bucharest, 050561 Romania

08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day1, Introduction to Day2
09:15 – 10:15	<p><b>Panel Discussion 3</b></p> <p><b>Taking Action at International level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation</b></p> <p>The aim of this session is to explore what kind of international partnerships do universities engage in, what is the shared purpose of these, and how do they contribute to the SDGs? Panellists will discuss how persons and ideas flow across borders, and how to generate dynamics among different systems and silos of research and education for the sake of the SDGs. The discussion will also focus on ethical and equitable international mobility of students and staff, and its contribution to sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr Caroline BENTON</b>, Vice President and Executive Director for Global Affairs, Tsukuba University, Japan</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Orla FEELY</b>, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, University College Dublin, Ireland</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Eden Y WOON</b>, President, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Catherine MORAN</b>, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, University of Canterbury, New Zealand</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Dr Hilligje VAN'T LAND</b>, Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU)</p>
10:15 – 11:00	Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30

### Parallel Debate Sessions led by ARC Partner Organisations

- **“Connecting SDGs to research rankings will undermine academic quality.”**  
Designed by **Dr Christopher TREMEWAN**, Secretary General, Association of Pacific -Rim Universities (APRU)
  - **Prof Sunhyuk KIM**, Professor of Political Science and Former Vice President for International Affairs, Korea University, Korea (confirmed)
  - Representative of U-Multirank (tba)

Curiosity-driven research is often claimed as ultimately more productive than mission-driven research. Imposing narrow objectives is destructive of the serendipitous nature of research, especially when the value of it may only be recognized much later. On the other hand, universities have a responsibility to demonstrate that their use of public funding for research contributes to society's well-being. Governments have the right to decide how public funding is used and corporations should be able to fund research that brings returns on investment. In any case, at this time of global inequality and ecosystem crisis, don't we need to inspire students and faculty to focus on solving global issues? Is measuring the relevance of research to the Sustainable Development Goals as a feature of university rankings a way to achieve this? Or will it undermine the value of research?

- **“Does making higher education free make it more equitable? “**  
Designed by **Dr Graeme ATHERTON**, Director, National Education Opportunities Network (NEON)
  - **Mr Robert NAPIER**, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU)
  - **Dr Roberto C YAP**, President, Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan, The Philippines (tbc)

Recent years have seen rising concern that access to higher education (HE) is becoming more inequitable and making HE free is the way to combat this problem. From Scotland to the Philippines governments are saying that a university education is a right not a privilege. But does free tuition actually mean exclusion not entry? Does it open the doors to all or starve universities of the resources they need to expand? Guest speakers from Europe and Asia will debate this issue and participants will be asked to take the side they support.

- **“Partnerships are crucial for achieving the SDGs: Should universities play a managerial or a participatory role?”**  
Designed by **Dr Josep M. VILALTA**, Director, Global University Network for Innovation
  - **Prof Dato' Dr Imran Ho Abdullah**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Industry and Community Partnerships), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Chair, University Social Responsibility and Sustainability Thematic Network, ASEAN University Network (AUN)
  - **Prof Joshi LOKESH**, Vice-President for Research, National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland

In the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in a time where our world is more connected and interdependent than ever, successful multi-stakeholder partnerships seem to be essential in order to implement solutions to achieve sustainable development. But, what role should higher institutions play in those partnerships to make them work towards the 2030 Agenda? Should universities play a managerial role or a participatory role? Which one of the two models has more impact? Which one is more democratic in the higher education context? What are the main challenges in terms of establishment,

	sustainability and success of these kind of multi-stakeholder partnerships in higher education?
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Closing Panel Discussion 4</b>  <b>Taking action in Asia and Europe: Cooperation and partnerships on SDGs</b>          The Closing Panel Discussion summarizes the take-aways and recommendations of the conference. It draws a conclusion on how higher education can influence its social environment through SDGs, and how university sectors can work together (in Asia, in Europe, between Asia and Europe, globally), and continue to feed into the Agenda 2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr Pornchai MONGKHONVANIT</b>, President, Siam University, Thailand</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Göran FINNVEDEN</b>, Vice President for Sustainability, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr Joao PINTO</b>, President, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)</li> <li>▪ <b>Ms Ingrid van ENGELSHOVEN</b>, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN</b>, Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Presentation of Policy Recommendations</b>          from the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum, followed by discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Hand-over of the ARC7 Policy Recommendations to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms Ecaterina ANDRONESCU</b>, Minister of National Education, Romania, Host of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME7)</li> <li>▪ <b>ASEM Minister of Education, Asia</b>          Host of the 8th ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM ME8) in Asia (to be announced)</li> </ul> <p><b>Reflections and closing remarks</b></p>
19:00 – 21:00	<p><b>Closing Dinner of ARC7</b>          Joint Dinner with participants of the ARC7 Students' Forum, ARC7 Rectors' Conference, ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2), ASEM Ministers' of Education (ASEM ME)</p>

**Wednesday, 15 May 2019**

Venue | Prahova valley, Dracula Castle, Transilvania University of Brasov

7.30 AM – 7.00 PM	<p><b>Optional Cultural Visit</b>          Optional full day cultural trip to Prahova Valley, visiting the Dracula Castle, City of Brasov, with lunch at the courtesy of the Transilvania University of Brasov, Prof Ioan Vasile ABRUDAN. .</p>
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## CO-ORGANISED BY



### The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

The work of ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) focuses on the themes *access to quality education* and *youth employment*, and, hence, contributes with its projects to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to Goal4: "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all."

For more information, please visit the [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org).



### The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), established in 1991 as a school of governance, is a landmark in the Romanian academic setting. SNSPA promotes academic excellence in Political Sciences, Sociology, Administrative Studies, International Relations, Diplomacy, European Studies, Communication Sciences, Psychology, Management. SNSPA teachers are experts in their fields; they incorporate current and global perspectives into the curriculum and promote innovative and original thinking.

Currently, the university is home to more than 6,000 students enrolled across 9 departments. Thousands of graduates from their academic programs have successfully entered careers in academia, government, industry and nonprofits. SNSPA is a member of several international university alliances (European Association of Institutions in Higher Education, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission, International Association of Universities, European University Association, European Association for Public Administration Accreditation) and collaborates with public institutions and business organizations across a wide range of different fields.

For more information, please visit [www.SNSPA.ro/en](http://www.SNSPA.ro/en).

## VISUAL CONCEPT

The United Nations General Assembly identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that encompass many aspects of contemporary society. The goals serve as globally-recognised standards that call upon stakeholders across all sectors, including education, to implement them by 2030. Achieving the SDGs, however, is a complex interplay that requires both strategic thinking as well as creative and innovative methods. Solving a Rubik's cube - one of the most famous educational toys ever - resembles this multifaceted process: it takes not only analytical skills and imagination but also hands-on action in solving the puzzle to get all the colours, sides and patterns right within the given time. Like the pieces in a Rubik's cube, the SDGs are interconnected and any decision to move towards a certain direction has an impact on the overall pattern and outcome. The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rector's Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7) is the platform for students, rectors, policy-makers and education ministers to showcase the interdisciplinary role of higher education in this serious game of developing and sustaining our societies. While the optimal solution may not be the easiest nor the quickest, we know we are moving the pieces in the right order by taking turns in drafting policy recommendations and making commitments towards the SDGs at ARC7.

### Organised by



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