



Urgent action is needed to reach an international climate deal: Asian and European experts say

Experts from ASEM¹ members called for action to seize the opportunity of COP21 in Paris to provide solutions to climate change

Press Release

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More Information

<http://bit.ly/ASEFclimate>



Asia and Europe are currently at the centre of the climate change debate, with Asia being a key player in the global energy sector, and Europe at the forefront of setting a global deal to reach ambitious climate and energy targets.

Recognising this trend, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Asia Centre organised a 2-day conference, *Asia and Europe Crossing Paths on the Way to COP21* on 29-30 September 2015 in Paris, France. The conference explored energy and climate related issues that will be at the core of the COP21 UN Climate Change Conferences later this year.

This high-profile event in Paris brought together over 100 renowned experts from academia, science, business, politics and the media from both Asia and Europe, including representatives from the European Commission, the International Energy Agency, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

“We often hear that climate action is detrimental for economic growth, but actually green growth will have a much higher return in the long term. We should shift from short term quantity GDP to long term quality GDP,” said Mr Rae Kwon CHUNG, Principal Advisor on Climate Change at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who attended the event as one of the guest speakers.

“Energy sector must cut emissions, while powering economic growth, boosting energy & increasing energy access,” highlighted Ms Laura COZZI, Deputy Head of the Directorate of Global Energy Economics at the International Energy Agency (IAE), during her presentation on Energy and Climate Change and how climate pledges shift the energy sector.

Experts reached the conclusion that further and immediate action is required by all parties to limit the far-reaching effects of climate change.

This event was the final session of the conference series under the project ‘*Energy Challenges and Climate Change*’ building on ASEF’s past work on Sustainable Development and Environment.

The event was held at the Senate, Palais du Luxembourg, in cooperation with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/ASEFclimate>

¹ The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 53 members (21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Union).

About the Organisers



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (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, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. 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).

Together with about 750 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 700 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 20,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org



Established in August 2005 by François Godement and a team of research fellows and experts on contemporary Asia, **Asia Centre** is an independent research institute which conducts discussions and produces publications on the strategic and economic aspects of international relations as well as current political and social transformations in the Asia-Pacific region. From a crossroads between academic research and decision-making (both corporate and government), Asia Centre's fellows identify the significant regional issues and analyze them from a local and global perspective.

Asia Centre initiates international discussions. Its renowned expertise grants it access to numerous committees and research groups focused on the region. The Centre's programs are developed in conjunction with an extensive network of partners – companies and prominent specialized centers in Europe, North America and Asia.

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