



## Press Release

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference**

*Asia-Europe University Cooperation: Contributing to the Global Knowledge Society*

26 – 27 October 2010 | Seoul, Korea

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## **ASEM University Rectors Meet**

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Rectors' Conference** opened in Seoul on 26 Oct 2010. The meeting aims at strengthening academic cooperation among higher education institutions of the 46 member countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

The ASEM Rectors' Conference is a biennial meeting between the heads of higher education institutions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference, "**Asia-Europe University Cooperation: Contributing to the Global Knowledge Society**", attracted more than 80 higher-education experts. It is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Korea University (KU) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN).

"ASEF considers education as central to the development of the individual," said ASEF Executive Director, Amb Dominique Girard, "ASEF has initiated and has been supporting several programmes to strengthen collaboration between education networks and academic institutions in Asia and Europe." He added: "The ASEM Rectors' Conference is one of the centrepieces."

Education was included as a priority agenda for leaders of the ASEM during the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in Helsinki 2006. The growing level of interdependence between regions in the areas of research and higher education has made interregional dialogue particularly relevant. Furthermore, fostering cooperation between universities in Asia and Europe can contribute to defining the role of higher education in a globalised society.

Said Korea University President Prof Ki-Su Lee: "In bringing together such a diverse selection of university leaders from Europe and Asia, I believe that the synergies created can greatly assist Korea University to achieve our dual goals of advancing the institution as a leading advocate for educational development in Asia, and in forming global leaders of the future."

Further development of the ASEM education process and an exchange of ideas on relevant trends on higher education will be examined at the conference.

The AUN has undertaken a wide range of activities both within and beyond ASEAN. It has substantially increased cooperation in higher education between Asia and Europe, including support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference.

The ASEM Rectors' Conference was first organised in 2008 by ASEF in response to the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (Berlin 2008)'s call for structural education cooperation among ASEM partners. ####

## Note to Editors

Members of the media are invited to the opening plenary session on 26 October 2010 from 09:30-12:15. A separate **press conference** will be held on the same day at **15:30-16:00, Centennial Memorial Samsung Hall**.

If you or your representative wish to attend the opening plenary or the press conference, kindly contact:

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## About the Organisers:



### The Asia-Europe Foundation

The Asia-Europe Foundation promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM\*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe.

[www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

\* ASEM is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation. It now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)



### Korea University

Korea University (KU) was founded by the Korean royal household in 1905 and has been a major driving force behind education and social change in the Republic of Korea. With its 36,526 fulltime students, five campuses, 20 graduate and professional schools, as well as 20 undergraduate colleges and divisions, KU is nationally and internationally recognised for its commitment to teaching and academic excellence. KU is a founding member of APAIE (Asia-Pacific Association for International Education). It joined APRU (Asia Pacific Rim Universities) in 2008 and Universitas 21, an association of the world's leading research universities in 2004.

Korea University Business School (KUBS) is the only and the first business school in the country to have acquired both European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) accreditation, in combination with the accreditation granted by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). KU has satellite campuses at universities in the USA, Canada, UK, China, Japan and Australia.



## **ASEAN University Network (AUN)**

At the Fourth ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN leaders directed that ASEAN should help hasten the solidarity and development of a regional identity by considering ways to further strengthen the existing network of leading universities.

This idea led to the establishment of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) in November 1995 with the signing of its Charter. The main objective of the AUN is to strengthen the existing network of cooperation among leading universities in ASEAN, by promoting cooperation and solidarity among ASEAN scholars and academics, developing academic and professional human resources, and promoting information dissemination among ASEAN academic community.

Currently, AUN comprises 26 Member Universities from 10 ASEAN countries and undertakes more than 30 collaborative projects within ASEAN and with its dialogue partners, such as China, the European Union, Japan and Korea. For more information on the ASEAN University Network, please visit [www.aunsec.org](http://www.aunsec.org)