

Workshop to help strengthen pandemic preparedness in Asia and Europe held



Participants of the scenario-building workshop in a networking web, illustrating the aspirations of the ASEF Network for Public Health.

Siem Reap, Cambodia— The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) organised the **1st Scenario-building Workshop on Multi-sector Pandemic Planning and Response** on 23-25 March 2010 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The workshop gathered 26 high-level participants from Asia and Europe representing a wide range of sectors such as health services, business, government, NGO, arts & culture and media, among others (please refer to list of organizations on page 2).

During the workshop, participants identified driving factors and significant uncertainties in preparing for pandemic outbreaks. They took into account existing studies, and addressed knowledge gaps to lay the ground for developing pandemic scenarios 30 years into the future. Supported and facilitated by Scenario Building experts from Prospex (www.prospex.com), participants worked out the ingredients for the formulation of scenarios for the two subsequent workshops that will be held this year.

“This is a meaningful starting point to trust that collaboration and network can happen and contribute to reach the better life”

- Ms Hasnah Widayani
IFRC Indonesia

During the workshop, Mr Sok Leakhena, Vice Governor of the Province of Siem Reap and other local officials were on hand to attend the dinner organised on 23 March 2010. Their presence showed Cambodia’s strong commitment to pandemic preparedness and its support of Asia-Europe cooperation in this field.

This scenario-building process, dubbed as the **ASEF Network for Public Health: Accurate Scenarios Active Preparedness (ASAP)**, will continue with the second and third workshops to be held in Shanghai, China on 21-23 June 2010 and in Normandy, France on 28-30 September 2010. The findings of these series of workshops will be developed into a multi-sector strategy, which will be channelled to leaders of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in 2011.

This project was organised under the framework of the [ASEF Network for Public Health](http://www.asef.org), a platform for enhanced collaboration on health-related issues between Asia & Europe. For more information, please contact Ms Eliette Dupré-Husser at eliette.dupre@asef.org

LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS:

1. Arts for Health of Manchester Metropolitan University
2. ASEAN Secretariat
3. ASEF University Alumni Network
4. CARE Vietnam
5. The Esplanade
6. European Commission/Directorate General for Health and Consumers
7. European Council on Refugees and Exiles
8. European University Institute
9. Food and Agriculture Organisation/Regional Office of Bangkok
10. GlaxoSmithKline Bio
11. Indonesian Red Cross Society
12. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society
13. International Organization for Migration/Pakistan Office
14. Korea Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention
15. Lufthansa German Airlines
16. Medical University of Lodz (Poland)
17. Ministry of Health of Mongolia
18. Ministry of Health, Laos
19. Mutualité Sociale Agricole
20. National Committee for Disaster Management of Cambodia
21. Nestle
22. Public Health Institute of Mongolia
23. The Straits Times
24. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Asia Pacific Region
25. WZW & Partners
26. Public Health Consultant (India – individual)

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The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** now brings together 43 member states (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, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org