

# Towards Pandemic Preparedness



**Brussels, Belgium**— The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Scenario-building Workshop on Multi-sector Pandemic Planning and Response from 28 to 30 September 2010 in Brussels, Belgium.

“ASEF has been pivotal in bringing a great team together to produce a well-thought scenario planning.” This view was expressed by William Kuek, Group Safety Health Environment Manager, Nestlé Middle East, who

was one of the participants of this workshop – and echoed by many others.

Entitled **ASEF Network for Public Health: Accurate Scenarios Active Preparedness (ASAP)**, the Workshop brought together 30 Asian and European participants, representing a wide range of expertise and sectors, including governments, civil society, and the private sector. It was the conclusion of a series of workshops held this year to develop scenarios for multi-stakeholder pandemic preparedness.

Supported by resource persons and facilitated by a consulting firm specialising in forecasting and scenario development, participants finalised three scenarios envisaging different types of pandemic threats, identifying possible consequences of each scenario and analysing the level of preparedness with regard to each pandemic scenario. As Salma Khalik, health correspondent for The Straits Times added, “it was an extremely stimulating workshop. (I was) amazed at the collective knowledge of the group. (I) have learnt a lot and made useful contacts.”

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Participants also discussed how to move forward from the scenarios towards strategies and action and reiterated the needs for strategy development training and the development of communication tools to disseminate the scenarios to a wide audience.

This project was organised under the framework of the [ASEF Network for Public Health](#), a platform for enhanced collaboration on health-related issues between Asia and Europe. For more information, please contact Mr Rachmat Irwansjah at [Rachmat.Irwansjah@asef.org](mailto:Rachmat.Irwansjah@asef.org).

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) 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 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)