Brussels, Belgium—The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) organised the 3rd 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.”

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.