Asia-Europe Public panel

Competing Crises: An Asia-Europe response to the Economic Crisis and its impact on Climate Change

Hosted by:
Regional Environmental Centre, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

The global financial and economic crises represent an unparalleled challenge to the people of Asia & Europe. Confidence in the world economy & its institutions is dwindling & there is now an unprecedented climate of uncertainty amongst the public. Nations are coming together to discuss a combined multi-lateral response to mitigate the crisis and seek to rebuild a new sustainable global financial system after the breakdown of the old one. It is this proactive global response that represents major challenges and opportunities for a similar global response to Climate Change.

This public panel will propose & assess innovative responses & ideas to position Climate Change at the fore front of the global political agenda, not through competing with the ongoing economic crises but supporting the alleviation of the crises. The idea of using the current economic crisis and the financial stimulus packages to actually subsidize new, more sustainable technologies will hopefully have a double impact: create jobs and help to get the economy going while at the same time investing in climate-friendly “green” projects across sectors, thus mitigating the effects of climate change and support the transition towards a low-carbon society.

The expert panelists will be drawn from a variety of backgrounds and will bring high level experience to the table to open dialogue on some of the inventive solutions to intertwine both economic stimulation & environmental problems such as a “Global New Green Deal”.

The panel will bring together five high level experts to be drawn from both the environmental and economic/finance sectors to share expertise across the two topics. The issue of Competing Crises is a major issue for the tackling of Climate Change as the issue slips from the highest political sphere as the short term response to the economic crises takes global precedence. It is the goal of this event to spur dialogue between Asian-European experts to evaluate whether on one hand, a dual response to the two crises can support one another to alleviate the short, medium and long term social impacts, and on the other hand best combine the financial incentives needed to boost the economy, while at the same time ensuring investments in key technologies.
Partners

Asia-Europe Foundation

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of ASEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focussed on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations.

Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEF reports to a board of governors representing the ASEM partners. ASEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. Since 1997, the Foundation has initiated projects engaging 14,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. ASEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries. For more information, please visit http://www.asef.org.

Regional Environmental Center

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe. The centre fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of 29 countries and the European Commission, and on an international agreement with the government of Hungary. The REC has its head office in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices and field offices in 17 beneficiary countries, which are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.