

**PRESS RELEASE
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How can effective policy response help Asian and European social enterprises?

Public Event and Policy Dialogue on the role of social enterprises in developing a sustainable global economy

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the British Council organised a Public Event and Policy Dialogue discussing the role of social enterprises in developing a sustainable global economy. The events took place on 15-16 July in Berlin, Germany. Nearly 90 people from Asian and European social enterprises and promotional agencies, particularly those closely working as policy influencers in the field, participated in the public event on Monday 15 July.

“It was an opportunity to understand the concept as well as role of social enterprises from both Asian and European perspectives”, highlighted Mr Karsten WARNECKE, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Mr Muhammad A. (Rume) ALI, Managing Director, Enterprises & Investments at BRAC (Bangladesh) was one of the speakers during the public event. “At the policy maker level, there has to be a clear and a ‘shared’ understanding on the definition of a social enterprise (SE) if an effective policy response is to be formulated and equally important is the need to define the basic architecture of a SE”, he said.

Talking about the definition of SE, Ms Penny NEWMAN, Chief Executive Officer, Funktional Group/Plant for Peace said: “Social enterprise is not just a business with a conscience. It is about actively delivering change, often tackling entrenched social and environmental challenges, where others, be it government or businesses, have either feared to tread or have failed”.

The policy dialogue on 16 July brought together more than 40 Asian and European participants from 26 ASEM¹ countries. Along with sharing of experiences from countries such as France, Poland, South Korea and Thailand there were in-depth small group discussions to explore effective policies that can better support Asian and European social entrepreneurs. Social cooperatives, tax incentives and regulatory frameworks, and capital investments through multiple funders, including crowdfunding – are some ways to support SEs in the two regions as discussed during the policy dialogue.

For more information please visit <http://bit.ly/15GLP57>
Photogallery <http://bit.ly/1apvbJq>

¹ ASEM – Asia-Europe Meeting www.aseminfoboard.org

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people and institutions of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of governance, economy, sustainable development, public health, culture, and education. Founded in 1997, ASEF is a not-for-profit, intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. It is the only permanently established institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 600 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 17,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org



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