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ASEF Public Health Network CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Joint Research on Health and Migration in Asia and Europe

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)¹. The membership has grown to 46 countries, plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. Through conferences, workshops, and a diverse range of projects, ASEF seeks to promote mutual understanding, deeper engagement and continuing collaboration among the people of Asia and Europe.

ASEF PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK

The ASEF Public Health Network is a unique participatory platform which encourages public health policy dialogue in Asia and Europe. The Network involves a range of stakeholders from governments, private sectors as well as civil society at the international, regional, national or local levels. Through this multi-sectoral and multi-level approach, the Network aims to strengthen the coordination and collaboration between Asia and Europe on public health issues.

BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

ASEF's added value to the Asia-Europe dialogue on public health is: 1) addressing common challenges with an Asia-Europe perspective; and 2) identifying opportunities for further collaboration on public health issues. In order to maximise this value, the Network aims at contributing to policy development process and to implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes. To this end, facts, figures and analysis, based on reliable and valid research data, are required. The Network also encourages the exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers to promote greater bi-regional collaboration.

As part of this endeavour, the ASEF Public Health Network successfully launched the 1st joint research on regional integration and infectious diseases in 2011. The outcomes of the selected research proposal by Yuchengco Centre (Philippines) and Fondazione ISMU (Italy) on "*Public Health Challenges in the Era of Migration: The Health Dimension of Southeast Asian Migration to Europe*", was presented at the 1st Research Exchange Workshop in Barcelona, Spain in March 2012. Following the recommendations from the Workshop, ASEF opens the second call for research proposals targeting researchers across Asia and Europe in the fields of health and migration.

¹ The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation. It brings together Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, 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, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission. www.aseminfoboard.org

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the joint research is to enhance cooperation between Asia and Europe by engaging researchers and utilising their research findings for policy dialogue on public health. ASEF expects that the policy-oriented research, based on quantitative and qualitative analysis, will address priority issues, provide useful data and draw meaningful conclusions. The research outcomes will combine the assessment of the existing situation with the analysis of critical gaps and challenges in both regions from social, economic and political perspectives. Eventually, the research will provide recommendations for further Asia-Europe cooperation to address solutions to the identified issues.

TOPICS

Considering common challenges that Asia and Europe face and possible synergies for Asia-Europe collaboration on health and migration, the ASEF Public Health Network has identified several topics as follows:

- **How is migrants' health affected by migration policies?**
 - Analysis of migration policies, bi-lateral agreements, memoranda of understanding between sending and receiving countries (compared across Asian and European countries), and their effects on migrants' health
 - Analysis of health policies and rights of women, children, elderly and returning migrants as well as undocumented migrants

- **What can be the role of cultural mediators in health services to bridge the gap between policies and implementation?**
 - Comparative analysis of models of cultural mediators in Asia and Europe
 - Evaluation and analysis of the gaps between government policies on migrants' health and actual outcomes of the implementation of these policies
 - Identification of the role of cultural mediators in bridging the gap between policy and practice

- **What is the real cost of restricting healthcare access for migrants (including undocumented migrants)?**
 - Analysis of healthcare financing for migrant workers
 - Cost-benefit analysis of restrictions on undocumented migrants' access to health services

Each research proposal should be based on one of the abovementioned topics.

RESEARCH PARAMETERS

Timeline

- Deadline for submission: 11:59 pm SST (Singapore Standard Time) on Sunday, 8 July, 2012
- Third week of July 2012: notification of selection results
- End July – August 2012: endorsement of the research agreement
- September 2012 – February 2013: overall period of the research
- Early November 2012: delivery of the interim report
- End November 2012: presentation of the preliminary outcomes at the 2nd ASEF Research Exchange Workshop
- End February 2013: delivery of the final report

Available funding

One or more proposals may be selected to form the basis of a research project to be supported by ASEF. Research agreement will be signed with the selected researchers/research institutes; the project will be implemented in close cooperation with ASEF. In addition to a maximum of USD 40,000 budget for direct research costs, ASEF will organise a workshop for interim results to be presented and discussed with a small group of experts and practitioners. ASEF will provide the selected researchers with funds for travel to participate the workshop.

Methodology

The selected researchers/research institutes shall propose a research design including the articulation of a research question, objectives, outputs, and methods for data collection, taking into account a timeframe, resources available, and the available budget.

Geographical scope

The geographical scope of the research is limited to ASEM member countries.

Selection criteria

The following requirements should be met:

- Researchers should have a solid background, proven capacity and work experience in the fields of this research, proven by a list of relevant activities.
- The proposal should respond to priority issues enumerated in section “TOPICS” above and address questions relevant to enhancing the cross-regional collaboration on health and migration.
- Researchers should propose a comprehensive methodology to achieve the research objectives.
- The research team should have a balanced representation between Asian and European nationals. Non-ASEM nationals are not eligible.

The working language used by ASEF is English. Reference to the “1st Research Exchange Workshop on Social Determinants of Migrants’ Health across Asia and Europe” is encouraged: <http://bit.ly/JzHSH9>.

APPLICATION AND CONTACT

Proposals should include the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Curriculum Vitae of researchers

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals in advance of the deadline. Proposals must be submitted electronically.

Applications and enquires should be directed to:

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