

# Engaged Universities for Sustainable Societies

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE**  
**RELEASE**

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**The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in partnership with Siam University, Thailand will organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Europe Education Workshop, 'Beyond the Academic Yardstick: the Societal Excellence of Education', on 25-26 September 2013 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.**

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The workshop will be an opportunity to examine the contributions of university-business-stakeholder co-operation to the societal excellence of university education, which goes beyond the mere pursuit of academic excellence. The workshop participants will look at how universities can work best with partners and stakeholders in creating sustainable societies.

During the event, about 30 higher education experts, students, as well as representatives from the government and business sectors will gather to discuss the following topics: the integration of the social dimension in higher education, the role of education in building social cohesion, active citizenship and community engagement in universities, tri-partite partnership between universities, businesses and communities, etc..

Mr Mechai VIRAVAIIDYA, Chairman of the the Mechai Viravaidya Foundation and one of Thailand's most highly esteemed social entrepreneurs, will be a speaker at the workshop.

Through the presentation of case studies and exchanges among the participants, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Europe Education Workshop will generate new ideas, which will be documented as recommendations, one of the key outcomes of the Chiang Mai event. These recommendations will also feed into the agenda of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEM<sup>1</sup> Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC4) to be held in September 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Policy recommendations resulting from the ARC4 will be presented for the consideration of ASEM governments through the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME5) in 2015 in Latvia.

## About the Asia-Europe Education Workshops

The Asia-Europe Education Workshops explore topics of increasing relevance in the field of higher education. They serve as platforms for focussed discussions on the changing context that affects the education sector in ASEM countries.

For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/AEEW-3>

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<sup>1</sup> ASEM: Asia-Europe Meeting (For more info, please visit [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org))

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, sustainable development, economy, governance and public health. ASEF is a not-for-profit, intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only 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](http://www.asef.org)



**Siam University** is considered one of the leading universities in the ASEAN region, focussing on the pursuit of knowledge and using ground-breaking research and training methods to create professionals. It seeks to build associations with local and international leaders in the diversity of global industrial and commercial standards of the future world markets. It offers academic opportunities in the area of Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Social Sciences, Humanities as well as Liberal Arts and Sciences. Its student bodies comprise 15,000 students, including over 450 international students coming from over 19 countries. From its inception, Siam University has contributed to over 75,000 graduates in various fields of specialisation.

For more information, please visit [www.inter.siam.edu](http://www.inter.siam.edu)

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