

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
15 May 2013

MEDIA CONTACT

Theresa CUA (Ms)
Public Affairs
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
E: theresa.cua@asef.org
T: +65 9178 0573
www.asef.org

MORE INFORMATION

<http://bit.ly/Z00021>

FULL ARC3 RECOMMENDATIONS

<http://bit.ly/11xEKWF>

SUBSCRIBE TO ASEF

PRESS RELEASES:



Universities should help drive economic growth

“Universities have an increasing role as drivers for economic growth and development,” said Ambassador ZHANG Yan, Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in his speech to over 140 ASEM delegates, Education Ministers and senior officials.

ASEF was taking part in the 4th Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4), held 12-14 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. “Universities need to equip students with skills that reflect the changing demand of the labour market,” he continued.

Ambassador ZHANG presented the key policy recommendations on improving graduate employability agreed upon by university leaders present at the 3rd ASEM Rectors’ Conference (ARC3) held 24-26 September 2012 in Groningen, the Netherlands. The ARC3 brought together over 130 leaders from universities and higher education institutions, business representatives, and students from 60 universities in 37 countries across Asia and Europe to discuss enhancing university-business collaboration towards producing more employable citizens and battling rising youth unemployment.

The recommendations were recognised by the ASEM Education Ministers in the meeting’s final conclusions. Some of the recommendations underlined the need to stimulate entrepreneurship, widen access to education, ensure academic excellence, produce more employable graduates and provide training on soft skills. Furthermore, university leaders discussed case studies on how different countries are implementing such measures.

Ambassador ZHANG also presented different projects ASEF has organised to translate the priorities in education (university-business collaboration, balanced mobility, lifelong learning) set forth at ASEM meetings into tangible actions engaging the education community. These projects include the ARC, the Asia-Europe Education Workshops, and the Database on Education Exchange Programmes (DEEP).

For more information please visit <http://bit.ly/Z00021>

A full copy of the ARC3 recommendations is available
<http://bit.ly/11xEKWF>

The ASEMME4 Final Chair’s Conclusions will be available soon on
www.aseminfoboard.org

ABOUT THE ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION (ASEF)



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** furthers understanding, fosters relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people and institutions of Asia and Europe.

ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the fields 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 participated in its activities and it has reached wider audiences through networks and web-portals, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org

ABOUT THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)



The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern.

The 51 ASEM Members are Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, 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, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.

For more information, please visit www.aseinfoboard.org