



## **ASEM is a vital forum for dialogue between Europe and Asia**

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) has been the main multilateral channel for communication between Asia and Europe, strengthening interaction and mutual understanding between the two regions through sustained dialogue since 1996. As one of the four “coordinators” of ASEM, the European Commission underpins the process, notably through ASEM Dialogue Facility funds.

### **ASEM involves virtually the whole of Asia and Europe**

The 7th ASEM Summit in Beijing, October 2008 admitted six new members bringing the membership up to 45 partners, together representing half of the world's GDP, almost 60% of the world's population and 60% of global trade. (ASEM partners are: Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, The Netherlands, The Philippines, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission.)

### **ASEM's forward-looking agenda is set in biennial Summits**

Overall direction is given by ASEM government leaders meeting at Summits every two years - alternating between

European and Asian locations. The most recent 7th ASEM Summit in Beijing, October 2008, allowed dialogue amongst the 45 Leaders on how to deal with the global financial and economic crisis, energy security, sustainable development and climate change. The next 8th ASEM Summit will be in Brussels in October 2010 hosted by Belgium and will have the theme “Improving the Quality of Life”.

### **ASEM is a continual dialogue between Asian and European governments**

In the intervening two years - between Summits – many inter-governmental ASEM meetings maintain the momentum of Asia Europe-dialogue on all political, economic, social and cultural issues of mutual interest to the partners. ASEM is informal and multi-sectoral - flexible and thus able to address the new global issues and challenges arising from globalisation. During 2009-2010 in addition to the ongoing political dialogue – ASEM meetings will address sustainable development, energy security, transport, immigration, border security and risks, fisheries, finance, economic policy, environment, education policy, culture, and interfaith dialogue.

### **ASEM brings together educators and researchers**

One key achievement of ASEM is the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) the first large-scale research and education network connecting regional researchers in Asia with their counterparts in Europe. Over 60 million users now have access to improved internet network performance providing mutually beneficial global research collaboration between Asia and Europe.

### **ASEM brings together other non-governmental stakeholders: lawmakers, businesses and civil society**

Civil society groups, parliamentarians and the business community meet at the Asia Europe People's Forum, Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership and Asia-Europe Business Forum held every two years alongside ASEM Summits.

### **ASEM brings together the peoples of Europe and Asia**

The Singapore based Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) funded by ASEM partners promotes understanding and collaboration between the peoples of Asia and Europe through cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchanges. The outreach to civil society and the wider public undertaken by ASEF complements the official ASEM dialogues, and the ASEM InfoBoard internet site managed by ASEF provides transparency on the ASEM programme.

### **ASEM on the Internet**

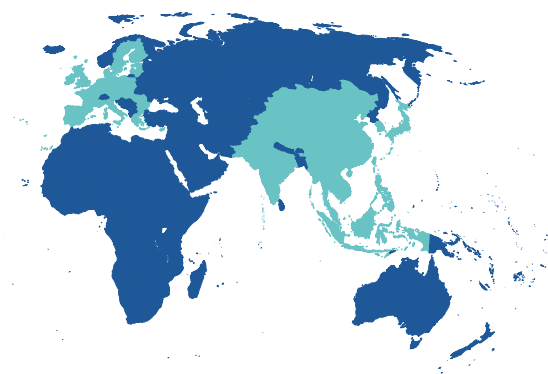
[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/asem/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/asem/index_en.htm)

[www.asem7.cn](http://www.asem7.cn)

[www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

[www.aseminfoboard.org/](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/)

[www.tein3.net/](http://www.tein3.net/)



# **ASEM -** Asia-Europe Meeting to address global challenges





# ASEM - Asia-Europe Meeting to address global challenges

