

DUBLIN AGREED PRINCIPLES
OF
THE ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

Purpose, Areas of Interest and Functions

1. The purpose of the Foundation is to promote better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, in line with the vision for Asia-Europe cooperation as laid down by the ASEM Leaders at their meeting in Bangkok from 1-2 March 1996 as well as at their subsequent meetings.

2. In pursuit of this purpose, the Foundation should seek to add value by :
 - (a) *organizing projects closely linked with ASEM activities in collaboration with relevant Asia and European institutions of the ASEM countries;*
 - (b) implementing any projects assigned by future meetings of ASEM Leaders or Ministers and the relevant member of the European Commission;
 - (c) acting as a clearing house, catalyst and facilitator;
 - (d) organizing a few flagship projects of its own;
 - (e) *conducting public relations activities to profile ASEM, and publicize ASEM Meetings, seminars and other activities; and*
 - (f) giving grants.

3. The Foundation should avoid duplicating existing and future bilateral and multilateral exchanges between Asia and Europe in the three areas of its work, as stated in paragraph 1 above, and should seek where possible to build on and promote further development in the activities of existing networks working in these areas.

Participation

4. Participation in the Foundation shall be open to ASEM partners having taken part in the first ASEM in Bangkok in March 1996, as well as to any new partners joining the ASEM process.

5. Intellectual, cultural and other relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations of the ASEM partners, working in the three core areas of the Foundation's mandate, will be eligible to apply to the Foundation for assistance.

Funding for the Foundation

6. The Foundation will establish an operating fund and an endowment fund.
7. The Foundation shall be entitled to solicit and accept contributions for either of these funds from member governments and their institutions, as well as from private corporations, foundations or individuals.
8. *Fair and balance contributions of all partners, which are important for the long-term financial sustainability of the Foundation, should be made on a voluntary basis by the governments of ASEM partners and the European Commission.*
9. Any moneys received in the operating fund in excess of the annual budget of the Foundation shall be transferred to the endowment fund, which shall also receive any contributions specifically earmarked for this purpose.

Legal Capacity

10. The Foundation shall be incorporated under Singapore's domestic law as a not-for-profit corporation with tax-exempt status. It will have the legal capacity to contract, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property, and be party to legal proceedings.

Governance

11. The Foundation will be governed by a Board of Governors. Each participant will designate one Governor for a period of three years. The Board will meet at least once a year and more often, if necessary. The Board will, at its first meeting, formally adopt a statement of the Foundation's purposes, objectives and procedures. The Board will likewise draw up its own rules of procedure. It may appoint an Advisory Committee and any other committee as may, in its view, be necessary for the performance of the Foundation's functions.
12. The Board of Governors shall elect its own Chairman and Deputy Chairman for a period of one year. If the Chairman is a European, the Deputy Chairman shall be an Asian, and vice-versa. The first Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be elected by the Board at its first meeting, on the basis of nominations made at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 15 February 1997.
13. The Board of Governors will be responsible for determining the Foundation's policies, programmes and priorities. The Board of Governors shall also be responsible for ensuring the efficient use of the Foundation's resources, for approval of the Foundation's annual report, its proposed budget and workplan for the coming year. In the exercise of their responsibilities, members of the Board will have regard to the interest of the ASEM as a whole.
14. *The Executive Director shall have meetings with the ASEM SOM leaders for consultation when necessary in order to ensure that the ASEM annual work programme is coherent with the ASEM official work programme. The Foundation shall also submit financial reports and other documents directly to the ASEM partner governments.*

Staffing

15. The staff of the Foundation shall be headed by an Executive Director. The Executive Director will be a citizen of an ASEM country. He shall be appointed by the Board of Governors for a term of *four years*. The Executive Director will be responsible to the Board for the administration of the Foundation and the implementation of its policies and programmes. The Foundation will be represented by the Executive Director.

16. The Executive Director will be assisted by a Deputy Executive Director who will be a citizen of an ASEM country, appointed by the Board for a term of *four years*.
17. If the Executive Director is an Asian, the Deputy Executive Director will be a European, and vice-versa.
18. The Executive Director will recruit such professional, secretariat and other staff essential for carrying out the policies and programmes of the Foundation. The Executive Director will also seek the secondment of such staff where appropriate, *including a Chief Financial Officer to ensure cost-effectiveness across programmes and projects, reporting and auditing in accordance with international standards*.

Accounts

19. The accounts of the Foundation shall be maintained according to normal principles of good practice, and shall be audited by an external auditor appointed by the Board whose reports shall be submitted to the Board.

19 December 1996

Amended on 6 October 2004, Hanoi