

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was established as a dialogue forum in 1996 with 26 partners to bridge Asia and Europe. Its 53 partners include 51 member countries and 2 regional organisations (ASEAN Secretariat and European Commission).

2. ASEM represents around 62.3% of the world's population, 57.2% of the global GDP and almost 60% of the world's trade. Throughout its evolution, ASEM has maintained a consistent edge as a forum for political dialogue between member countries with diverse and complementing capacities. The 2nd ASEM expansion in 2006 saw India join the Forum w.e.f. 1 January 2007.

ASEM Meetings

3. ASEM Summit Level meetings are held biennially. 11 ASEM Summits have been held so far. India's first Summit level participation was at the 7th Summit held in Beijing on 24-25 October 2008, where Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation. The 8th ASEM Summit was held in Brussels on 4-5 October 2010 where Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari led the Indian delegation. The Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid at the 9th ASEM Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 5-6 November 2012. 10th ASEM Summit was held on 16-17 October, 2014 in Milan, Italy. Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation to the Summit.

4. The 11th Summit was held on 15-16 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Indian delegation was led by our Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari. The theme for the Summit was "20 years of ASEM: Partnership for Future through Connectivity". Hon'ble Vice President was the lead speaker for the Plenary Session on Promoting ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity.

5. Apart from the biennial Summits, Meetings of Foreign Ministers, Ministers of Finance, Education, Culture and Transport, Mayors, Governors and Parliamentarians are also held regularly.

6. India hosted the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM11) in Delhi-NCR from 11-12 November 2013, which was inaugurated by the Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari. The FMM marked the beginning of a new

orientation for future ASEM meetings, as members agreed that the dynamism of ASEM should find expression in tangible result-oriented initiatives which could be utilized to define joint responses by Asia and Europe to global and regional challenges and also seize opportunities for growth and development.

7. The 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12) was held in Luxembourg from 5-6 November 2015. Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers/ Deputy Foreign Ministers of all ASEM partners. The theme of the meeting was "Working Together for a Sustainable and Secure Future". The 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) would be held in Myanmar in 2017.

Areas of Cooperation

8. India is an active participant in ASEM. The following initiatives have been taken by India in the last two years under the areas identified for tangible cooperation:-

- (i) First ASEM Roundtable on "Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings" was organized by CII in September 2014 in Hyderabad and the Second ASEM Roundtable was organised in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in November 2015.
- (ii) An ASEM Workshop on "Cooperation between Asia & Europe in Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Medical Devices Sector" was held in November 2014 in New Delhi in association with CII.
- (iii) A Roundtable on "Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescue Efforts amongst ASEM countries", was held in December 2014 in New Delhi in association with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (iv) A Workshop on "Towards Efficient & Sustainable Water Management through partnership amongst ASEM Countries" was held in February 2015 in New Delhi as part of Water India-2015 in association with CII.

9. India is a Member of the ASEM Working Group on Press and Public Awareness Management Strategy. As a member of this Working Group, India hosted a Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats on "Diplomacy and Foreign Policy- An Indian Perspective" from 9-13 March 2015 at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. The second edition of the Foreign Policy Module for ASEM

Diplomats was held from 13-17 June 2016 in New Delhi.

10. India also successfully hosted the 11th ASEM Customs Directors General/Commissioners meeting in Goa from 8-9 October 2015. The meeting was attended by the Heads of Customs Administrations and Senior Customs Officials from 40 ASEM member countries and the European Union.

11. The Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) is the only permanently established institution of ASEM. India regularly contributed US\$100,000 annually to ASEF since becoming a member of ASEM in 2007 till 2010 to support collaborative initiatives being undertaken by ASEF. Increased annual contribution of US\$ 120,000 is being made by India from 2011 onwards.

12. The MEA in association with ASEF successfully held the 19th Summer University Project on “Sustainable Urbanization in Heritage Cities” from 9-21 August 2015 at Symbiosis International University, Pune. INTACH was the knowledge partner for the event.

13. The 20th anniversary celebrations of ASEM were held in 2016. India was a Member of the ASEM Working Group on the 20th Anniversary Celebrations”. As a member of the Working Group, India hosted the ASEM Youth Dialogue on 26 March 2016 in New Delhi in partnership with Young Indians (Yi), an integral part of the Confederation of Indian Industry.

14. India organized the ASEM Workshop on Non-Invasive Technologies for Diagnostics and Treatment of Diabetes as a Lifestyle Disease on 4 February, 2017 in New Delhi in association with CII. The event was attended by more than 100 participants and included eminent panelists comprising medical practitioners, researchers and academicians from India and the ASEM countries. The workshop focussed on sharing the latest research and information available on the Non Invasive Technologies that could be utilised for Diabetes.

15. India also organized the ASEM Workshop on Techniques and Instruments for Conservation of Monuments and Artefacts on 6-7 February 2017 in New Delhi in association with INTACH. The Workshop was attended by 80 participants from Asia and Europe including practitioners and policy makers, museologists, conservationists, archivists, students and researchers etc. The Workshop consisted of technical sessions focussing on further requirements in the field of techniques and equipment used in conservation of monuments and field visits to the INTACH Conservation Laboratory, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts and

Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site. The Workshop led to discussions contributing to bringing ASEM countries on a common platform towards the process of conservation of monuments and artefacts, as these practice vastly different techniques and technologies.

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ASEM Members

1. ASEAN Secretariat	2. Australia	3. Austria
4. Bangladesh	5. Belgium	6. Brunei Darussalam
7. Bulgaria	8. Cambodia	9. China
10. Croatia	11. Cyprus	12. Czech Republic
13. Denmark	14. Estonia	15. European Union
16. Finland	17. France	18. Germany
19. Greece	20. Hungary	21. India
22. Indonesia	23. Ireland	24. Italy
25. Japan	26. Kazakhstan	27. Korea
28. Lao PDR	29. Latvia	30. Lithuania
31. Luxembourg	32. Malaysia	33. Malta
34. Mongolia	35. Myanmar	36. Netherlands
37. New Zealand	38. Norway	39. Pakistan
40. Philippines	41. Poland	42. Portugal
43. Romania	44. Russian Federation	45. Singapore
46. Slovakia	47. Slovenia	48. Spain
49. Sweden	50. Switzerland	51. Thailand
52. United Kingdom	53. Vietnam	