

The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning



Asia-Europe Meeting ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning

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"Lifelong learning today is more than adult education - it encompasses all learning from cradle to grave, whether it takes place in school, at the workplace, in civil society or in the family. An integrated perspective is therefore the order of the day.

The ASEM LLL Hub is an umbrella for university cooperation in LLL between Asia and Europe for comparative studies leading to policy recommendations and a meeting place for research and educational policy".

Arne Carlsen
Chair of the ASEM Education and
Research Hub for Lifelong Learning



As Albert Einstein once said, "Learning is not a product of schooling but the lifelong attempt to acquire it." Lifelong Learning is flexible, diverse and available at different times and in different places. It crosses sectors, promoting learning beyond traditional schooling and throughout adult life. In Thailand, we put a great importance on lifelong learning by executing the Long-Term Development Plan for Higher Education with the aim to provide lifelong learning source for the people after-retirement and within the workplaces, to develop new skills for a new business, as well as to develop and use ICT to support lifelong learning opportunity.

Piniti Ratananukul, PhD
Chair of the ASEM LLL Advisory Board
Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the Higher Education Commission
Ministry of Education, Thailand



"Policy without evidence is irrelevant. Nowadays, in the global environment it is crucial for policy makers to benefit from the evidence that is based on collaborative research. ASEM LLL Hub provides clear model of cooperation between universities and national departments of education and directly targets enhancing lifelong learning opportunities towards prosperity and well-being.

As co-chairman of ASEM LLL Hub Advisory Board my main task is to facilitate such cooperation, involve even more European partners in the process and ensure that research networks are duly advised of the evidence demand expressed by the Board members".

Dmitrijs Kuļšs
Co-Chair of the ASEM LLL Hub Advisory Board
Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia

Vision

The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning provides opportunities for collaboration between Asian and European countries with regard to the intersection between research-informed practice, evidence-based research and research-based policy making.

In line with ASEM guiding principles, the ASEM LLL Hub aims – in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership – to strengthen the relationship and increase mutual understanding between educational researchers, practitioners, and policy makers working in the two regions..

The ASEM LLL Hub concurs with the definition adopted by the European Commission, which views lifelong learning as “all learning activity undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence, within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective.”

Lifelong learning is therefore about:

- ▶ “acquiring and updating all kinds of abilities, interests, knowledge and qualifications from the pre-school years to post-retirement. It promotes the development of knowledge and competences that will enable each citizen to adapt to the knowledge-based society and actively participate in all spheres of social and economic life, taking more control of his or her future.
- ▶ valuing all forms of learning, including: formal learning, such as a degree course followed at university; non-formal learning, such as vocational skills acquired at the workplace; and informal learning, such as inter-generational learning, for example where parents learn to use ICT through their children, or learning how to play an instrument together with friends.”¹



¹“Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning a Reality”, November 2001, COM/2001/0678 final.

Aims

The ASEM LLL Hub is a platform for dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policy makers in order to contribute to evidence-based educational reform and innovation.

It is also an official specialist network of Asian and European universities, research institutes working and learning together to achieve excellence in comparative research on lifelong learning. It further seeks to promote the mobility of students and academic staff within and between the two regions.



Objectives

For the specialist field of lifelong learning, the ASEM LLL Hub seeks to establish and support:

- ▶ a network of leading universities and research institutes in all ASEM partner countries that can stimulate the production of new knowledge and the exchange of experiences between the two regions;
- ▶ a network of specialist researchers across relevant disciplines that can initiate bilateral and multilateral comparative projects in the field of LLL and that enhances the research capacity of partner universities;
- ▶ a network for exchanging students and academics, in the interests of strengthening mutual understanding and higher education collaboration between the two regions;
- ▶ an advisory mechanism between the Hub's university network and an Asia-Europe open meeting of political and institutional LLL stakeholders, thus casting the Hub as an important source for sustainable human resource development and policy recommendations concerning competence development and effective LLL strategies;
- ▶ information and dissemination of research and good practice to the broader public in Asia and Europe.

History

The ASEM LLL Hub was established as the result of a preparatory work for the ASEM IV Heads of State Summit in Copenhagen in 2002. Three working groups were set up to explore the possibilities for a stronger cooperation between Asia and Europe in the field of lifelong learning. Their work included an analysis on how LLL enables governments to respond constructively not only to the changing demands of the knowledge economy but equally to strengthening social cohesion by engaging with the most vulnerable groups of society through raising participation in education and training, regardless of age and social and economic circumstance.



The initiative to establish the ASEM LLL Hub was welcomed at the 2004 ASEM V Heads of State Summit in Hanoi. With support from the Danish government, a first conference in Copenhagen in 2005 served as the ASEM LLL Hub's official launch. Since this time, the ASEM LLL Hub has established a strategic partnership with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

The Chair's conclusion of the first ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education in Berlin (2008) described the ASEM LLL Hub as an innovative cooperation between Asia and Europe and invited it to expand its activities to include all ASEM countries.

The ASEM LLL Hub presented its activities at an exhibition during the ASEM VII Heads of State Summit in Beijing (2008). On this occasion, the heads of states renewed their commitment to further strengthen their cooperation in human resources development and sustained dialogue and exchange in the field of lifelong learning.

The ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education in Hanoi (2009) concluded that lifelong learning provides a solid framework for sustainable human resource development, which generates economic growth and social welfare and enables individuals to pursue stimulating learning opportunities at all stages of their lives. Ministers took the view that LLL deserves specific attention for intensified cooperation among the ASEM countries.

The Chairs conclusions from the Hanoi meeting agreed to strengthen the role of the ASEM LLL Hub in order to deepen common understanding of LLL concepts and to enable relevant research-based policy recommendations.

Organisation and Funding

ASEM LLL Hub headquarter is at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark, which hosts the Hub's secretariat and its chair. The ASEM LLL Hub works in partnership with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in Singapore.

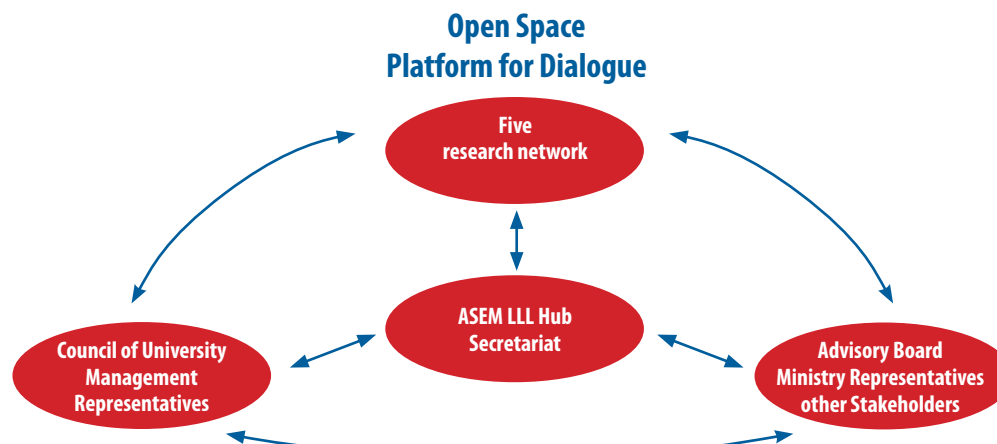
The Hub's five active research networks are paralleled by a Hub University Council composed of, senior representatives from its partner universities (currently, 36 representatives from 28 countries) and by a Hub Advisory Board that brings together 25 national ministries and 5 international organisations.

The Thai Ministry of Education chairs the Hub Advisory Board and the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science acts as co-chair. The Danish School of Education, Aarhus University chairs the Hub University Council.

The ASEM LLL Hub has an explicit mandate to extend its cooperation network to include all ASEM countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The first ASEM Education Ministers Meeting in Berlin (2008) issued an initial invitation to do so, and the second Education Ministers Meeting in Hanoi (2009) confirmed the mandate in its Chair's conclusions.

ASEM LLL Hub activities and infrastructure receive a modest level of financial support from ASEF and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish Ministry of Education and the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University. These funds are awarded each year on the basis of evaluated proposals. Voluntary funding contributions have also been mobilised on a specific activity basis from ASEM governments and partner universities.



² ASEM partners (October 2010) include:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, 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, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission.

Activities

- ▶ 'Open Space' – Platform for Dialogue:
 - ▼ Asia-Europe Conferences present outcomes of joint comparative projects undertaken by the research networks
 - ▼ Annual Hub meetings of research network coordinators, university management representatives and advisory board members
 - ▷ share research results,
 - ▷ exchange perspectives,
 - ▷ make research-based policy recommendations
 - ▷ discuss national challenges and initiate new research, and
 - ▷ create mutual critical dialogue between policy makers and researchers in order to contribute to educational reform and innovation.
 - ▼ Advisory Board meetings share views, challenges and good practices in policy making between ASEM countries and raise funds for research activities and mobility.
- ▶ Publications and the Hub website report and disseminate ASEM LLL Hub activities and research to interested partners, stakeholders and the wider public.
- ▶ Research Networks' Meetings take place on a regular basis as needed; their activities are managed by the designated network coordinators.

ASEM LLL Publications:

- ▶ Managing and Developing Core Competences in a Learning Society. SoongHee Han (ed.), 2010. Seoul National University Press.
- ▶ eASEM White Paper: e-Learning for Lifelong Learning. Bowon Kim (ed.), 2010. Korea National Open University Press.
- ▶ Teachers and Trainers in Adult and Lifelong Learning: Asian and European Perspectives. Egetenmeyer, R. and Nuissl Ekkehard (eds.), 2010. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.
- ▶ Frameworks for Supporting Lifelong Learning. Weifang Min and Lars Qvortrup (eds.), 2010. Tong Xin Publishing House, Beijing.
- ▶ Workplaces as educational spaces. Impulses. Novotny, P. (ed.), 2009. Masaryk Universität Brno.
- ▶ Competence Development as Workplace Learning. Chisholm, L.; Fennes, H. and Spannring, R. (Eds.) 2007. Innsbruck University Press.
- ▶ Ensuring Lifelong Skills for All: Partners, Pathways and Pedagogies. Malaysia National University, 2007.
- ▶ e-Learning in Asia-Europe: Co-operation and Partnership. Korea National Open University, 2007
- ▶ Building up Lifelong Learning Communities – Challenges and Opportunities. Community Education Committee of Xuhui District, Shanghai, 2007

University Partnership

The ASEM LLL Hub operates on the principle of voluntary partnership. Universities from ASEM member countries express their interest and commitment to the ASEM LLL Hub in the form of a letter of intent.

The following principles guide future expansion of the ASEM LLL Hub Partnership:

- ▶ the Partnership is open and evolutionary; its purpose is to strengthen Asia-Europe cooperation for the specific field of lifelong learning, which is both a policy priority in both world regions and a growing specialist research topic;
- ▶ the Hub Secretariat examines each institutional candidature to join the Partnership on individual merit and in the light of its prospective contribution to ASEM LLL Hub activities; substantial research capacity in the lifelong learning field is the core criterion, as demonstrated by dedicated research centres, thematically specialised degree courses and academics with recognised reputation in the field;
- ▶ institutional partners are expected to support the active involvement of those academic members of staff affiliated to the Hub's research networks, enabling them to take part in working meetings and conferences, joint research projects and exchange visits in both directions (sending and hosting);





Current partner universities³

1	Austria	University of Innsbruck	18	Lithuania	Mykolas Romeris University
2	Cambodia	Phnom Penh International University	19	Lithuania	Vytautas Magnus University
3	Cambodia	IIC University of Technology	20	Malaysia	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
4	China	National Centre for Education Development Research	21	Malaysia	Open University Malaysia
5	China	Renmin University of China	22	The Netherlands	University of Groningen
6	China	Peking University	23	Portugal	Universidade Aberta
7	China	Beijing Normal University	24	The Philippines	Ateneo de Manila University
8	Czech Republic	Masaryk University Brno	25	The Philippines	The Philippine Normal University
9	Denmark	Danish School of Education, Aarhus University	26	Rumania	West University of Timisoara
10	Finland	University of Helsinki	27	Slovakia	Technical University in Zvolen
11	Germany	German Institute for Adult Education, Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning	28	South Korea	Korea National Open University
12	Germany	Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz	29	South Korea	Seoul National University
13	Hungary	University of Debrecen	30	South Korea	Institute of Education Research in Ajou University
14	India	International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education	31	Sweden	University of Gothenburg
15	Indonesia	State University of Surabaya	32	Thailand	Chulalongkorn University
16	Japan	Open University of Japan	33	Thailand	Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
17	Latvia	University of Latvia	34	United Kingdom	University of London, Institute of Education
			35	Vietnam	Hanoi University of Education
			36	Vietnam	Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences

³Accession by letter of intent (through to December 2010)

Other participating universities⁴

1	Brunei	University of Brunei Darussalam	13	Japan	Hosei University
2	China	East Normal University, Shanghai	14	Japan	University of Tokyo
3	China	Open University of China	15	The Philippines	Commission on Information and Communications Technology
4	China	Zhejiang University	16	The Philippines	Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges
5	France	University of Caen-Basse Normandie	17	South Korea	Hanyang University
6	Denmark	University of Southern Denmark	18	South Korea	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
7	Germany	Duisburg/Essen University	19	South Korea	National Institute for Lifelong Education
8	Hungary	Hungarian National Adult Education Institute	20	Spain	University of Deusto
9	India	S.K. University, Anantapur	21	Thailand	Cyber University
10	Indonesia	Adalas University	22	United Kingdom	University of London School of Oriental and African Studies, London
11	Indonesia	University of Bengkulu	23	United Kingdom	University of Glasgow
12	Japan	Toyo University	24	United Kingdom	The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

Model of Operation

The ASEM LLL Hub organises its research activities through five thematic networks.

Research Network 1: Development of ICT skills, e-learning and the culture of e-learning for Lifelong Learning. Coordination: Korean National Open University, Korea

Research Network 2: Workplace Learning. Coordination: University of Innsbruck Institute of Educational Science, Austria

Research Network 3: Professionalisation of Adult Teachers and Educators in ASEM countries. Coordination: Germany Institute for Adult Education, Duisburg/Essen University, Germany

Research Network 4: National strategies for Lifelong Learning with regard to citizens' motivation and barriers against continuing education and training. Coordination: National Centre for Education Development Research, PR China

Research Network 5: Core Competences. Coordination: Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark

⁴Academics from these universities join ASEM LLL research networks and/or participate in activities, but the universities have not established institutional partnerships with the ASEM LLL Hub

Future Prospects

The upcoming period plans:

- ▶ to extend Hub partnership into all ASEM countries;
- ▶ to assure a sustainable Hub organisation and structure, including enhanced visibility and communication strategies;
- ▶ to strengthen the interconnections between the Hub's three pillars: the University Council, the Advisory Board and the Research Networks;
- ▶ to intensify the interaction between the Hub and national government ministries with respect to exchange and development of LLL policy making priorities.

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