



8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC8)

Outlook 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe

OVERVIEW and PROGRAMME

Friday, 10 September 2021



Organised by:



Contributing to:



BACKGROUND ON #ARC

The ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC)¹ is the **Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME)** and the only bi-regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university and student leaders, policy makers and ministers to discuss higher education issues and shape the education landscape in Asia and Europe.

Its results, including policy recommendations, feed into the ASEM Education Process, and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The mission of ARC is to



Facilitate exchange of good practices and networking among universities and student organisations in Asia and Europe



Inspire stakeholders to take action on issues of joint concern in Asia and Europe



Inform and influence policymakers of the 51 ASEM Partner Countries

TOPIC OF #ARC8 CONFERENCE

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call for action to shape a better future for all. Universities and their students have a key responsibility to tackle complex societal challenges of our times, manifested in these Goals. While recognising the outstanding results of universities contributing to the SDGs, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how fragile the achievements on the goals are. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020², COVID-19 is reversing decades of progress on poverty, healthcare and education. Green and equitable economic recovery is not possible without innovative tertiary education and a **renewed commitment to inclusion in tertiary education**, if we are to deliver on our promise on leaving no one behind.

In July 2020 UNESCO invited higher education institutions to put the values of inclusion and equity on their recovery roadmap, develop new partnerships, inclusive online learning solutions, and improve policies together with national officials and international organisation in the next decade.³

KEY FACTS

WHEN

Friday, 10 September 2021
7.00-13.00 GMT

[Convert to your time zone here](#)

WHERE

Online platform Whova

TOPIC

Outlook 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe

SPEAKERS

- Experts representing universities, student and professional organisations across Asia and Europe
- Education Ministers and Senior Officials of ASEM countries

FOR WHOM?

- Policymakers and Government Officials of the 53 ASEM Partners
- Managers, academics and students of universities interested in the topic
- Experts and higher education professionals

HOW TO REGISTER?

[Register Now](#)

The event is free of charge. Come and join us to discuss inclusion in higher education.

¹ Formerly called the ASEF Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARC). From ARC8 onwards, the project is called ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education, merging the Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum for greater synergies and impact.

² [Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020](#). Published by UN in July 2020, New York.

³ [Speech of Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education](#), UNESCO at the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Special Event, 8 July 2020.

The ASEM Education Ministers also highlighted at their last Ministerial Meeting that the ASEM Education Process should aim at ensuring inclusion and equality in education by building comprehensive education systems that are accessible to all.⁴

In accordance with these calls, ARC8 invites Asian and European higher education and student leaders to leverage on the current COVID-19 disruption and make inclusion and diversity central values of their paradigm shift. Titled “**Outlook 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe**”, ARC8 will explore how universities and students can foster inclusion and diversity in the final decade for the Agenda2030, and raise awareness on potential risks and opportunities along **4 subthemes**:

- 1 | Inclusive Learning and Teaching in a Digital World**
- 2 | Inclusive and Flexible Lifelong Learning Pathways**
- 3 | Inclusive International Mobility of People and Knowledge**
- 4 | Equitable Access and Success in Higher Education**

The theme aligns with the priority areas of the [ASEM Education Process](#)⁵ and the upcoming 8th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME8). In addition to ARC8, ASEF will organise several spin-off activities focusing on disseminating findings of the ARC8 Outlook Report 2030 and build capacity for local and regional stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES OF THE #ARC8 CONFERENCE

The objectives of this event are as follows:

- Officially **launching the ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe**
- **Engaging regional partners and stakeholders** to review risks and opportunities for inclusion in higher education in the next decade
- **Discussing the recommendations of the report** for policy makers and communities of higher education practitioners to foster greater inclusion in their work
- **Networking** among participants to find new partners in creating a more equitable, inclusive, and quality higher education by 2030

OUTLOOK REPORT 2030: INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Prior to the ARC8 conference, a selected group of experts, university and student organisation leaders collaborated for over 8 months online to prepare an **ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe** along the subtopics of ARC8.

The Outlook Report outlines emerging issues that could grow into major challenges and/or opportunities in the coming 10 years related to inclusion in higher education. Inputs for the report came from an in-depth consultation process and from previous research done by Asian and European stakeholders.

The Report consists of 4 chapters analysing the future of inclusion from different perspectives, and makes **two sets of recommendations** for:

- **for ASEM policy makers**, to serve as a basis for policy dialogues and as an input to their discussions on the ASEM Education Strategy and Action Plan 2030.
- **for ASEM university leaders**, to outline capacity building directions for institutions and inspire joint action to make universities more inclusive in the next decade.

⁴ [Conclusions by the Chair. 7th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting \(ASEM ME7\)](#), 15-16 May 2019, Bucharest, Romania titled “Connecting education: inclusion, mobility and excellence in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

⁵ The 4 core priorities of the ASEM Education Process are the following: 1) Quality Assurance and Recognition, 2) Engaging Business and Industry in Education, 3) Balanced Mobility, 4) Lifelong Learning including TVET. In 2019, “Sustainable development” and “Digitalisation” were adopted by the ASEM Education Ministers as horizontal and crosscutting priorities on top of the 4 core priority areas.

As ARC8 is the **Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME)**, members of the ARC8 Expert Group will be invited to engage in policy dialogues with ASEM policy makers based on their findings and recommendations of the Outlook Report 2030. ARC8 Experts will also contribute to the **ASEM Education Senior Officials’ First Meeting (SOM1)** on 14-15 September 2021 and to the **8th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME8)** towards the end of the year hosted by Thailand.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

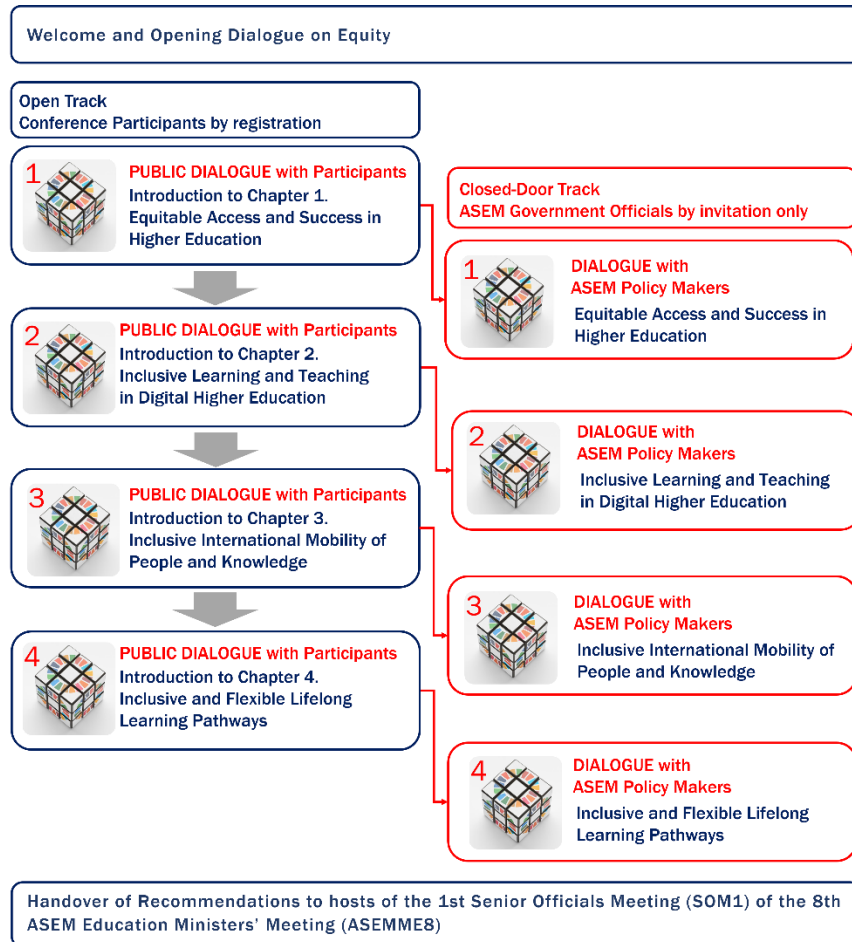
The conference invites all stakeholders in higher education development in Asia and Europe to register, especially:

- members of the higher education community, university leaders, managers, academics based in Asia and Europe
- education policy makers, ASEM Education Ministers, ASEM Education Senior Officials (SOMs) or their representatives and colleagues from the 53 ASEM Partners
- representatives of national education agencies and other stakeholders of the official ASEM Education Process
- students and leaders of various student organisations
- representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), International Organisations (IOs) and higher education business representatives from the 53 ASEM Partners

The event is **free of charge**. Registration confirmation is on a **first come first served basis** up to 500 slots. The event will be live streamed as well.

The conference will have a **closed-door policy discussion component**, which is designed for an interactive discussion between ARC8 experts and government officials of the 51 ASEM countries. This component is **for policy makers by invitation only**.

FORMAT OF #ARC8 CONFERENCE



DRAFT PROGRAMME



All times are displayed in GMT. Convert it to your time zone by using a time calculator [such as this one](#). Starting time in different cities:



**7.00-7.50AM
GMT**

Welcome and Opening Equity Dialogue

7.00-7.05 Welcome remarks

- Ambassador Toru MORIKAWA, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

7.05-7.45 Equity Dialogue – Diversity and Inclusion on the Recovery Roadmap of Higher Education

- HE Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (tbc)
- HE Kung PHOAK, ASEF Governor for ASEAN and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
- Prof Dr Dzulkifli bin ABDUL RAZAK, Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia
- Ms Martina DARMANIN, President of the European Students' Union (ESU) (tbc)

Moderated by: Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN, Director of Education, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**7.50-8.00 AM
GMT**

Health Break

**8.00-8.10 AM
GMT**

Launch of the ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusion and Diversity in Higher Education in Asia and Europe

- Introduction to the Report by Ms Reka TOZSA, Senior Project Manager, Education Policy, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**8.10-8.25 AM
GMT**

Setting the Scene: Overview of ASEM National Equity Policies

- Dr Graeme ATHERTON, Head of the Levelling Up Center, University of West London; Director of the National Education Opportunity Network (NEON), United Kingdom

**8.30-9.30 AM
GMT**

Chapter 1. Equitable Access and Success in Higher Education

Presentation of the chapter and recommendations for governments and universities (20 mins)

- Ms Mary TUPAN-WENNO, Executive Director of ECHO, Center for Diversity Policy, The Netherlands
- Dr WAN Chang Da, Director of the National Higher Education Research Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Response and reflection by ASEM Education Leader (10 mins)

- Minister of Education, Europe (invitation process in progress)

Dialogue with ASEM Education Leader, Experts, and Audience (20 mins)

- Moderated by Dr Wesley TETER, Senior Specialist for Higher Education, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

Break (10 mins)

Authors of this chapter: Dr Dina AFRIANTY President of Australia-Indonesia Disability Research and Advocacy Network; Dr Graeme ATHERTON, Director of NEON; Mr Martin HAMMERBAUER, Board Member of the European Students' Union; Ms Mary TUPAN-WENNO, Executive Director of ECHO, Center for Diversity Policy, The Netherlands; Dr Nishat RIAZ Director of Education, British Council Pakistan; Dr WAN Chang Da, Director of the National Higher Education Research Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

After this session, ASEM Senior Officials and Government Officials and are invited to participate in a closed-door Policy Dialogue Session with authors of the ARC8 Outlook Report and discuss the recommendations to feed into the deliberations of the SOMs on ASEM Strategy 2030 and Action Plan. This closed-door session will take place between 9.30-10.30 AM GTM and participation is by invitation only.

**9.30-10.30 AM
GMT**

Chapter 2. Inclusive Learning and Teaching in a Digital World

Presentation of the chapter and recommendations for governments and universities (20 mins)

- Dr Mislav BALKOVIĆ, Dean, Algebra University College, Croatia
- Dr Keiko IKEDA, Vice-Director, Institute for Innovative Global Education, Kansai University, Japan

Response and reflection by ASEM Education Leader (10 mins)

- Minister of Education, Europe (invitation process in progress)

Public Dialogue Engaging ASEM Education Leader, ARC8 Experts, and Audience (20 mins)

- Moderated by Alexander KNOTH, Head of Section Digitalisation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (tbc)

Break (10 mins)

Authors of this chapter: Marcela CHAVEZ OCAMPO, former Director of Outreach and Capacity Building Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA); Dr Nopraenue Sajjarax DHIRATHITI, Vice President for International Relations and Corporate Social Communication, Mahidol University; Dr Wayne HOLMES, Consultant, Independent, United Kingdom; Dr Keiko IKEDA, Division of International Affairs, Institute for Innovative Global Education, Kansai University, Japan; Victor NEGRESCU, Professor and Coordinator of Research Institutes, National University for Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA); Justin PATRICK, President, International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS).

After this session, ASEM Senior Officials and Government Officials and are invited to participate in a closed-door Policy Dialogue Session with authors of the ARC8 Outlook Report and discuss the recommendations to feed into the deliberations of the SOMs on ASEM Strategy 2030 and Action Plan. This closed-door session will take place between 10.30-11.30 AM GTM and participation is by invitation only.

**10.30-11.30
AM GMT**

Chapter 3. Inclusive International Mobility of People and Knowledge

Presentation of the chapter and recommendations for governments and universities (20 mins)

- Mr Darren MCDERMOTT, Team leader of the EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Project (EU-SHARE)

- Ms Ginisha DEWANI, Partnerships Liaison Coordinator, International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS)

Response and reflection by ASEM Education Leader (10 mins)

- Minister of Education, Asia (invitation process in progress)

Public Dialogue Engaging ASEM Education Leader, ARC8 Experts, and Audience (20 mins)

- Moderated by Dr Hilligje VAN'T LAND, Secretary General of the International Association of Universities (IAU) (tbc)

Break (10 mins)

Authors of this chapter: Ms Ginisha DEWANI, Partnerships Liaison Coordinator, International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS); Ms Irina FERENCZ, Director, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA); Mr Darren MCDERMOTT, Team Leader, EU-SHARE Programme; Ms Olivia PARCZYK, Liaison Officer for Asia, Erasmus Student Network (ESN); Prof Miki SUGIMURA, Vice President for Global Academic Affairs, Sophia University, Japan; Dr Huan Tuong VO, Deputy Director, International Office, International University (Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City).

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**11.30-12.30
PM GMT**

Chapter 4. Inclusive and Flexible Lifelong Learning Pathways

Presentation of the chapter and recommendations for governments and universities (20 mins)

- Prof Séamus Ó TUAMA, Chair of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub; Director, Adult Continuing Education, University College Cork, Ireland
- Ms Brikena XHOMAQI, Director, Lifelong Learning Platform, Co-chair of the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group of Civil Society

Policy response and reflection by ASEM Education Leader (10 mins)

- Minister of Education, Asia (invitation process in progress)

Public Dialogue Engaging ASEM Education Leader, ARC8 Experts, and Audience (20 mins)

- Moderated by Dr Cesare ONESTINI, Director of the European Training Foundation (ETF)

Break (10 mins)

Authors of this chapter: Prof Dr Melinda BANDALARIA, Chancellor and Professor, University of the Philippines Open University; Mr Walter CHONG, Deputy Director (Academic) Lifelong Learning Centre (L3C), Brunei Darussalam; Dr Sheikh Lukman S A HAMID, Director, Lifelong Learning Centre (L3C), Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam; Dr Alexandra IOANNIDOU, Internationalisation Unit, Executive Department, DIE – Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning; Secretary and Board Member, European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA); Prof Séamus Ó TUAMA, Director, Adult Continuing Education, University College Cork; Chair of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub; Ms Brikena XHOMAQI, Director, Lifelong Learning Platform, Co-chair of the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group of Civil Society.

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**12.30-13.00
PM GMT**

Handover to hosts of the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1) and the 8th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME8)

- HE Trinuch THIENTHONG, Minister of Education, Thailand, Host of ASEMME8 (tbc)
- HE Anja KARLICZEK, Federal Minister of Education and Research, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Host of SOM1 (tbc)

Closing:

- Ms Nadia REYNDERS and Ms Emilie DEGUELDRE, Coordinators, ASEM Education Secretariat

ORGANISED BY



Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy, public health and media.

The work of ASEF’s Education Department (ASEFEdu) focuses on the themes digitalization & inclusion, and hence, contributes with its projects to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to Goal4: *ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

For more information, please visit the www.ASEF.org.

VISUAL CONCEPT

The United Nations General Assembly identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that encompass many aspects of contemporary society. The goals serve as globally recognised standards that call upon stakeholders across all sectors, including education, to implement them by 2030. Inclusion is a horizontal element of the SDGs, a prerequisite to achieve them. Achieving the SDGs, however, is a complex interplay that requires both strategic thinking as well as creative and innovative methods. Solving the Magic Cube - one of the most famous educational toys ever - resembles this multifaceted process: it takes not only analytical skills and imagination but also hands-on action in solving the puzzle to get all the colours, sides and patterns right within the given time. Like the pieces in a cube, the SDGs and issues of inclusion are interconnected and any decision to move towards a certain direction has an impact on the overall pattern and outcome.