

# 18th Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue The Age of Connectivity – ASEM and Beyond

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Shangri-La Hotel

11-12 May 2016

Draft Agenda as of 03 May

## Tuesday, 10 May

Arrival of International participants

19:00 hrs

**Informal Dinner**

**Naadam Terrace Restaurant, Shangri-la Hotel**

## Wednesday, 11 May:

9:00 hrs

**Registration (Paris and Beijing Room, Ground Floor)**

9:15 hrs

**Welcome Remarks**

**Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy**

Director, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia and  
the Pacific, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Singapore

**Dr. Damba Ganbat**

Director, Institute of Strategic Studies, Mongolia

**Prof. Carolina Hernandez**

Founding President, Institute for Strategic and Development  
Studies, The Philippines

**Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee**

Director, EU-Centre, Singapore

9:45-11:15 hrs

**Keeping ASEM Relevant in Times of Rapid Change and Ambiguity**

Chair:

**H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sirivudh**

Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, Cambodia

This session will address questions of how ASEM as a forum can create a bigger impact and evolve. It takes up several suggestions which are prominent in the ASEM-debate such as ad-hoc coalitions on specific subtopics (this goes back to the suggestions by the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting), continuous policy dialogue on such subtopics outside of the summits and the idea of sub-regional clusters through which ASEM could then also promote integration or at least coordination within the various regions.

**Shada Islam**

Friends of Europe, Belgium

*Marketplace for Ideas and Ad-Hoc Coalitions*

**Dr. Bart Gaens**

Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland

*Continuous Policy Dialogue to Complement the Summits*

**Prof. Ummu Salma Bava**

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

*Sub-Regional Clusters - ASEM as a Tool to Foster Sub-Regional Integration*

Comment by:

**Dr. Yasuyuki Ishida**

Japan Institute of International Affairs, Japan

Discussion

11:15-11:45 hrs

**Coffee Break**

11:45–15:30 hrs

## **Facilitating Connectivity in Global Governance**

Increasingly, Asia and Europe are facing the same challenges arising from growing connectivity – from disasters as a result of climate change to growing conflicts arising from identity politics or increasing religiosity. There is much that Asia and Europe can learn from each other and share experiences on. Successful cooperation among the ASEM member countries can contribute to a global or at least bi-regional governance structure.

These shorter sessions shall address two key topics in this regard – disaster management and quiet diplomacy / conflict mediation. Disaster management can be an issue for very concrete and practical cooperation, including questions of financial aid, technology transfer, capacity building, and preparedness planning. The EU and individual European countries have been successful in mediating conflicts in Asia due to their non-involvement. Similar roles can be played by Asian countries as it was, for instance, the case in the climate change negotiations. Instead of addressing specific topics within these themes, both sessions shall provide a European and Asian perspective on how the cooperation can work in these fields. It will examine how the ASEM platform can be used to facilitate developments and cooperation in the areas of disaster management and preventive diplomacy.

11:45-13:00 hrs

## **Asia-Europe Cooperation on Quiet Diplomacy and Conflict Mediation**

Chair:

**Michael Matthiessen**

European External Action Service, European Union

**Bunn Nagara**

Institute for Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia  
*Cross-Cultural Approaches to Security, Peace and Development*

**Ambassador Michael Reiterer**

European External Action Service, European Union

*A European Perspective on Quiet Diplomacy*

**Maty Nikkhou-O'Brien**

New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, New Zealand  
*Preventive Diplomacy: A New Zealand Approach*

Discussion

13:00-14:15 hrs

**Lunch**

14:15-15:30 hrs

**Europe-Asia Cooperation on Disaster Management**

Chair:

**Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar**, National University of  
Mongolia, Mongolia

**Major General Muniruzzaman**

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies,  
Bangladesh

*Europe-Asia Cooperation on Disaster Management*

**U Myint Thu**

Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies

*ASEM's Role in Promoting Cooperative Disaster Management*

**Prof. Tony Redmond OBE**

Deputy Director, Humanitarian and Conflict Response

Institute, University of Manchester, United Kingdom (Skype)

*European Perspective*

Discussion

15:30-16:30 hrs

**Coffee Break**

16:30-17:00 hrs      **Registration for Public Event**  
**Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Ballroom I, Ground Floor**

17:00-18:30 hrs      **Panel Discussion “Strengthening Asia-Europe  
Connectivity”**

**Welcome Remarks:** **Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy**  
Director, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia and  
the Pacific, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Singapore

**Dr. Damba Ganbat**  
Director, Institute of Strategic Studies, Mongolia

**H.E. Ambassador Gerhard Thiedemann**  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Mongolia

**Moderator:**      **Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee**  
Director, EU Centre in Singapore

**Panel with ASEM Senior Officials:**

**Ambassador Orgil Luvsantseren**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

**Gunnar Wiegand**  
European External Action Service, European Union

**Peter Kell**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand

**Kyaw Zeya**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar

**Closing Remarks:** **Dr. Daniel Schmücking**  
Country Representative, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung,  
Mongolia

18:30-20:30 hrs      **Dinner Reception**  
**Ballroom II, Ground Level**

**Thursday, 12 May:**

**Paris and Beijing Room, Ground Floor**

9:00-10:30 hrs

**Digital & Economic Connectivity – Towards New Economic Models**

Chair:

**Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri**

Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

This session will focus on how the technological and digital revolution is shaking up old economic models. With Asia and Europe trading and investing more and more with each other, ASEM can become a platform for Asia and Europe to foster economic innovations through digital connectivity and discuss new emerging economic models that support the sustainability agenda. Sharing and Circular economy can contribute greatly in the implementation of the COP 21 agreement and sustainable consumption in general. Especially an enhanced cooperation between European and Asian SMEs can improve the economic relations and both regions' prosperity.

**Dr. Naoyuki Yoshino and Shinichi Nakabayashi**

Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan

*Infrastructure Finance and Importance of Connectivity*

**Dr. Eleonora Poli**

Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Italy

*Connecting European and Asian SMEs*

Comment by:

**Dr. Françoise Nicolas**

Institute Français de Relations Internationales (IFRI), France

Discussion

10:30-11:00 hrs

**Coffee Break**

11:00-12:30 hrs

## **Session 4: Connectivity of Ideas**

Chair:

**Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee**

EU Centre in Singapore

Hard connectivity needs to be accompanied by soft connectivity. It is necessary to foster continuous exchange of ideas and experiences. Key actors in this context are the academia and policy-makers/advisors. This session shall address how cooperation among think tanks, between the academic and policy level as well as among policy makers can be improved.

**Prof. Bruce Wilson**

European Union Centre at RMIT University, Australia

*Connectivity of Ideas: Engaging Civil Society Organisations*

**Melissa Conley Tyler**

Australian Institute of International Affairs, Australia

*Think Tanks as Knowledge Brokers*

**Prof. Jürgen Rüländ**

University of Freiburg, Germany

*Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation*

Discussion

12:30-13:00 hrs

## **Concluding Remarks**

**Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy**

Director Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia and the Pacific, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Singapore

**Dr. Damba Ganbat**

Director, Institute of Strategic Studies, Mongolia

13:00-14:00 hrs

**Lunch**

**End of Conference**

## Cultural Excursion

### Thursday, 12 May:

14:00 hrs Pick-Up from the Shangri-La Hotel

Places of Interest:

- Ghengis Khan Statue
- Terelj National Park (including Turtle Rock and Aryabal Buddhist Monastery)

19:00 hrs Tuul Riverside Lodge  
Buffet Dinner with Traditional Mongolian Concert and Dance

21:00 hrs Departure for Shangri-La Hotel

22:00 hrs Arrival at Shangri-La Hotel