



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

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The ASEM LLL Hub Secretariat, International Research Policy Office, Danish School of Education, Aarhus University • Tuborgvej 164, DK- 2400 Copenhagen NV, Denmark.
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ASEM Lifelong Learning Conference:

”Increasing Opportunities and Removing Obstacles for Lifelong Learning”
29-30 October 2009, Nha Trang City, Vietnam.

Sponsored by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training and the Danish Ministry of Education.

The ASEM conference ‘Increasing Opportunities and Removing Obstacles for Lifelong Learning’ was organised by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training and the ASEM LLL Hub on 29-30 October 2009 in Nha Trang city, Vietnam. The two day conference brought together 120 experts from ministries and universities in 22 ASEM countries and 8 flagship international organisations, such as the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), the ASEM Education Secretariat.



The conference has successfully met its objectives

1. to share understanding, research findings and good practices;
2. to identify various obstacles to lifelong learning;
3. to strengthen the interface between research and education policy making;
4. to explore bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation.

14 presentations presented by the experts from China, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, UK, Vietnam, EU, OECD, and SEAMEO, concerning various aspects and defining issues of lifelong learning in the two continents created a platform for exploring key issues, such as:

- the development of the lifelong learning concept in the globalised knowledge economy
- the differences in understanding of LLL and the complexities of LLL in East Asia and West Europe
- the similar challenges and different obstacles in the development of LLL in the two regions
- the role of the state in developing and implementing LLL policies
- the national qualification system as a policy tool for promoting LLL
- the significance of adult educator training
- the benefits of bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation in LLL within and between Asia and Europe.



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The Conference Key Statements

The conference brought about **shared understanding** of the concept of lifelong learning and reaffirmed that the **aims of lifelong learning** include employability, citizenship, social inclusion, and personal development and fulfilment.

While acknowledging the pre-eminence of the economic aim of lifelong learning, the conference also highlighted well-being and happiness of individuals, adopted humanistic aims of lifelong learning and postulated **five pillars** of learning – to know, to do, to be, to live together and **to care for the planet**.

The conference identified major existing and potential economic, geo-political, legislative, socio-cultural, and psychological obstacles to lifelong learning. The conference noted that although countries are facing similar challenges caused by globalisation, it is important to examine these **five sets of obstacles** in national and regional contexts in order to identify country priorities in the globalised knowledge economy.

The conference pointed out that **lack of quantitative and qualitative research** into various problems and complexities of lifelong learning at national and regional levels presents obstacles to effective policies and successful implementation. The problem is acute in the ASEAN region.

The Conference Suggestions

The state has a critical role in overcoming structural obstacles and reducing/eliminating personal obstacles, as well as creating opportunities for lifelong learning. Governments need to have an inter-departmental approach to the implementation of effective and efficient lifelong learning policies.

The conference recognised that there are obvious benefits to **establish a lifelong learning research centre in the ASEAN region** to create a network of research institutes and experts, that will contribute to improving knowledge production, statistics collection and data analysis for policy making.

The conference welcomed Vietnam's willingness as ASEAN presidency holder in 2010, to host such a centre and invited Asian ASEM countries to join the initiative and contribute financial and human resources to realise the initiative.



Vice Minister, Nguyen Thi Nghia, Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam.



Participants from 22 ASEM countries at the ASEM LLL conference on 29-30 October, Na Trang city, Vietnam.



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At the conference, ASEM participants not only shared their information on national lifelong learning policies and good practices, but also took action to establish bilateral and regional partnerships to strengthen the link between research and policy making in the field of lifelong learning.

In addition, ASEAN participants will convey the results of this conference to the leaders of concerned organisations in their countries and propose their Ministers to include lifelong learning as an indispensable item on the agenda at ASEAN summits and raise common interests and voices at regional level.

The success of the previous ASEM LLL Conference “**e-Learning and Workplace Learning**”, hosted by the Thai Ministries of Education and Labour in July 09 and the ASEM LLL conference “**Increasing Opportunities and Removing Obstacles for Lifelong Learning**”, hosted by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training in October 09 has not only realised the ASEM EMM2 conclusions, but also demonstrated strong commitment and interest of ASEM countries to learn from each other and to make lifelong learning a reality for their peoples.

At the conference, the Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences awarded an **Honorary Doctoral Degree** to Mr. Arne Carlsen as a token of appreciation for his work in the field of lifelong learning and his significant contribution to establishing and strengthening the ASEM research cooperation in lifelong learning since 2002.



Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences and the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark



Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam and the Asian Institute of Management, the Philippines.



To the right: An Honorary Doctorate was conferred on Mr. Arne Carlsen, Chairman of the ASEM LLL Hub, Director of International Affairs, International Research Policy Office, Danish School of Education, Aarhus University. (Prof. Dr. Nguyen Loc, in red, Mr. Arne Carlsen, in blue).



The Doctoral Degree Award Ceremony at the ASEM LLL Conference, 30 October 2009.

(from the right: Vice Minister of Labour, Dr. Dam Huu Duc; Representative from Brunei Delegation; Mr. Arne Carlsen, Vice Minister of Education, Dr. Nguyen Thi Nghia; Deputy Director General of Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Loc; Director General of the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Tran Ba Viet Dzung; Director of International Office, Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences, Dr. Tran Kim Thuan).

See the conference proceedings and all presentations on www.dpu.dk/ASEMLLL NhaTrangOct09