



# Overview Report on ASEM Initiatives

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*Evaluation and Recommendations  
for Future Improvements*

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# **Overview Report on ASEM Initiatives**

- Evaluation and Recommendations for Future Improvements -

## **1. Background**

Since its launch at the Bangkok Summit Meeting in June 1996, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) has established an invaluable framework for the balanced development of international relations among the three major regions in the world – Asia, Europe and North America – through the strengthening of ties between Asia and Europe. ASEM has been pursuing comprehensive dialogue and cooperation among its partners with a focus on the three pillars: political, economic, and social/cultural areas.

With its key principles of informality and multi-dimensionality, ASEM has provided an open and inclusive forum for its partners to share useful experiences and ideas for the guidance of future policy-making. In this regard, various initiatives – endorsed and noted – have been implemented over the past ten years, which have contributed to furthering the ASEM process. However, there has also been concern that some initiatives have been implemented without clear direction or mid- to long-term vision, due partly to the lack of any established management mechanism for those initiatives.

The year 2006 and the upcoming ASEM VI will prove a turning point for the ASEM process as it marks its tenth anniversary. Taking into account the fact that the number of ASEM Partners increased from twenty six to thirty nine and that there are still more countries which have expressed their wishes to join the ASEM, the number of initiatives is also expected to increase in the years to come.

In this respect, reviewing the current status of ASEM initiatives carried out over the past ten years is timely and meaningful; this endeavor will also serve as a stepping stone to develop more effective and systematic cooperative ties between Asia and Europe.

Against this backdrop, the Korean government has carried out the task of collecting as much information as possible on ASEM initiatives and stocktaking the state of initiatives in an effect to make recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in managing the initiatives.

To this end, the Korean government asked all partners to provide available information and their self-evaluations on the initiatives proposed by respective partners, and also examined the existing relevant materials including official documents distributed and information collected from the numerous ASEM-related websites. Through this process, a total of ninety five initiatives, implemented and to be carried out prior to ASEM VI Summit, were identified as the object of stocktaking in this report. However, we experienced difficulties in collecting more detailed information and materials due to the absence of an administrative unit or a mechanism which stores relevant information and oversees the status of each initiative.

## **2. Current Status of the ASEM Initiatives**

### **(1) Political Pillar**

The ASEM political dialogue aims to provide a useful platform to address a range of issues such as terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation among the partners.

However, compared with other initiatives under the economic and social/cultural pillars, it is said that there has been less progress under this pillar in terms of achieving visible and substantial cooperation. This may be attributed to the relatively small number of initiatives, eleven, in comparison with the number of initiatives in other pillars. Another reason may be that most political initiatives have taken the form of seminar or workshop where various views have been exchanged but with no further follow-up activities.

To overcome such limitations, the partners should try to identify the issues of common concern where not only dialogue but substantial cooperation are achievable and sustainable, and explore ways to implement initiatives with a common vision.

### **(2) Economic pillar**

Under the economic pillar, forty four initiatives have been implemented with a view to enhancing trade and investment between Asia and Europe. In this context, the Trade

Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) and the Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP) have made a significant contribution in yielding practical results, including proposals to remove barriers in trade and investment between the two regions.

The Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) has not only provided a forum for dialogue and exchanges, but has also played an important role in reinforcing ties among private enterprises. Furthermore, various numerous initiatives, including the establishment of the ASEM Trust Fund at ASEM II, have clearly demonstrated the direction and scope for ASEM to give further concrete shape to the economic cooperation between the two regions.

However, the initiatives under this pillar have also evidenced shortcomings in some respects, with some initiatives remaining at the level of the exchange of information and views as they have been carried out in the form of seminar, etc. In addition, some initiatives are similar to or duplicate the already ongoing initiatives. If such a trend continues, no value-added initiatives will be created in the economic pillar whereby it would be more difficult to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Bearing this in mind, it is necessary to promote the initiatives giving tangible benefits to the peoples in Asia and Europe, and to generate greater synergy by linking and integrating similar initiatives.

### **(3) Social and Cultural pillar**

ASEM Partners have promoted a wide range of initiatives in order to enhance better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Toward this end, forty initiatives under this pillar have been carried out within the ASEM process.

Especially, the Asia-Europe Foundation(ASEF), which was established as an important medium to promote social and cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe, has played a pivotal role in giving adding value to the ASEM process through its own activities. Nevertheless, there is also overlapping and duplication between the ASEF-led activities and the ASEM initiatives, which calls for our careful attention.

### **3. Characteristics and Evaluation of the ASEM Initiatives**

The ASEM Partners have promoted dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe through various initiatives over a wide range of issues. In carrying out the initiatives, they have pursued the common objectives of promoting peace and stability, securing sustainable development and enhancing mutual understanding between the two regions. It has been pointed out that some initiatives have successfully developed into visible and effective cooperation while others have not met such expectations. After evaluating the current status of ASEM initiatives, the following characteristics were identified.

First, the ASEM process was noted of its unique character, spontaneity, and a wide range of initiatives within its framework have been implemented to enhance the visibility of the ASEM in Asia and Europe. Many initiatives, however, have been carried out in the form of seminar or conference and especially, not a few initiatives were held just once or twice, with no follow-up activities ensued. Such initiatives could not develop into good instances of mid- to long- term cooperation. In this respect, it is necessary for ASEM Partners to focus on value-added projects.

Second, the outcomes of some initiatives have not been fully shared among partners. Furthermore, some initiatives failed to enhance the public awareness due to insufficient media attention and/or limited participation from the civil society. Unless these issues are adequately addressed, public interests and support for the ASEM process will be weakened accordingly.

Third, some initiatives have been carried out overlapping with others in terms of their purposes or contents. Hence, for the general public, it will be difficult to differentiate these initiatives due to their similarities. This may be partly attributed to the lack of mechanism for stocktaking and coordination of ASEM initiatives. In this context, it would be useful to link or integrate those initiatives which are closely interrelated to enhance the synergy.

Last but not least, those initiatives which have been proposed by partners with a strong will in pushing ahead tend to be successfully implemented. On the other hand, there has been a tendency for partners not to show much interest in the initiatives which they did not propose or sponsor. In this regard, it is evident that the partners' strong drive to carry forward with the initiative and other partners' solid support and active participation are key elements for the sustainable development of ASEM initiatives.

#### 4. Recommendations for Better Management of ASEM Initiatives

Based on the AECF 2000<sup>1</sup> adopted at ASEM III and the Foreign Ministers' Recommendations on ASEM Working Methods<sup>2</sup> endorsed at ASEM V as well as the analysis outlined in this report, we would like to make some recommendations for better management of ASEM initiatives.

Although SOMs are given the mandate of better monitoring the follow-up of initiatives in all three pillars, as illustrated in the above mentioned documents, it has been pointed out that SOMs have not properly carried out their responsibility. Accordingly, **as an urgent short-term measure**, it is crucial to put in place an appropriate institutional mechanism for SOMs to do their job more proactively, especially in reviewing the progress of all ASEM initiatives and recommending whether individual initiatives

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<sup>1</sup> According to the AECF 2000, "Results and outputs of all ASEM initiatives will be reported to SOM on a timely basis. SOM shall also be responsible for reviewing the progress achieved under all ASEM initiatives on a regular basis, and for recommending if individual initiatives be continued or terminated. To facilitate this review process, it shall be carried out in such a way as to group activities addressing related issues into thematic clusters."

<sup>2</sup> The Foreign Ministers' Recommendations for ASEM Working Methods are as follows:  
(SOMs)

- SOMs should be empowered to approve and/or filter individual initiatives. If SOMs agree an initiative its implementations can begin even before being formally endorsed by the ASEM Leaders/Ministers. SOMs should better monitor the follow-up of initiatives in all three pillars.

(Coordinators)

- The Coordinators' role in follow-up and reporting on initiatives should be strengthened. Information sharing would be enhanced by using ASEM Contact Points and other methods of communication.

(Handling of ASEM initiatives)

- Individual initiatives should be more substantial. To this end, the host country should collect comments on its initiative from other members. The comments may be examined and adopted in some case, or those who send the public comments will receive explanation from the host country, if needed. SOM should monitor and assess ASEM initiatives in all three pillars.
- Publicity for endorsed initiatives should be strengthened through ASEM Infoboard, i.e. publicizing the initiative on the ASEM website before its implementation. Information of initiatives held in the past should be gathered, organized and compiled so that it can be widely shared.
- It is encouraged that as much as information as possible about each initiative, including both pre-event explanation and post-event assessment of results, will be shared among ASEM Partners through the ASEM Infoboard.

should be continued or terminated. It is also worth exploring ways on how to enhance the Coordinators' role in this regard. Through this process, ASEM initiatives will yield more focused and result-oriented outcomes.

Another possible suggestion may be to capitalize on the role of Chair countries of the previous and the upcoming summit in managing the initiatives. Engaging these two Chair countries in the Coordinators' Meeting could serve to enhance the systematic and efficient management of initiatives.

Differing from other regional cooperation process such as APEC, management of the ASEM initiatives has been carried out solely by the partners concerned without the administrative assistance of a so-called secretariat. So far, the strong will of the partners has been a decisive factor in the progress and success of the initiatives. In reality, there are many initiatives on which the relevant information is scattered among the respective partner, thereby causing difficulties in maintaining the institutional memory of the initiatives.

In this regard, the ASEM Infoboard already run by ASEF and the Virtual Secretariat, once established, can provide helpful platforms for ASEM Partners to store and share the relevant information, and be conducive to better management of all initiatives. Taking this into account, **as a long-term measure**, it will be useful to establish a unified and responsible administrative unit for the systematic management of all initiatives.

## **5. Conclusion**

ASEM has made a significant contribution to the strengthening of mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe particularly in the political, economic and social/cultural pillars. At the same time, it is also important to pay attention to the concern that the outcomes of the initiatives carried out so far have not been sufficiently shared among the partners. One of the reasons could be that the initiatives have not systematically managed.

In this context, it is an urgent task for the partners to explore ways on improving the management mechanism for the ASEM initiatives on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the ASEM this year. Otherwise, the ASEM process may lose the

momentum to enhance substantially cooperative relations between the two regions.

In addition to the aforementioned points, active support and participation of all ASEM Partners are indispensable not only for the successful implementation, but also for the better management of those initiatives. With these efforts, ASEM VI is sure to serve as a catalyst in revitalizing and substantiating the overall ASEM, thereby contributing to the development and prosperity in Asia and Europe.

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**Annex: List of ASEM Initiatives**

[Annex]

**List of ASEM Initiatives**

※ Initiatives with no available information are left blank.

**I. Political Pillar**

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
1	ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting		1st: Singapore in February 1997 2nd: Berlin, Germany in March 1999 3rd: Beijing, China in May 2001 4th: Madrid, Spain in June 2002 5th: Bali, Indonesia in July 2003 6th: Kildare, Ireland in April 2004 7th: Kyoto, Japan in May 2005	
2	Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF)		AECF 2000 sets out the vision, principles, objectives, priorities and mechanisms for ASEM process for the first decade of the new millennium.	Adopted at ASEM II and revised at ASEM III.
3	Asia-Europe Vision Group (AEVG)	Korea	AEVG Report presented to ASEM III.	Endorsed at ASEM I.
4	Asia-Europe Forum of Governors of Cities (AEFGC)	Thailand	1st: Thailand in 1999	Noted at ASEM II.
5	Seminar on Peace and Society Building	The Philippines		Noted at ASEM II.
6	Roundtable on Globalization	Korea, Sweden	1st: Seoul, Korea in May 2001 2nd: Malmö, Sweden in March 2003 3rd: Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2003	Endorsed at ASEM III.
7	Anti-corruption Initiative	China, United Kingdom		Endorsed at ASEM III.
8	Symposium on Law Enforcement Organs' Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crimes	China, Italy	1st: Beijing, China in September 2001	Endorsed at ASEM III.
9	ASEM Seminar on Anti-terrorism	Denmark, China, Germany, Japan, Spain	1st: Beijing, China in September 2003 2nd: Berlin, Germany in October 2004 3rd: Semarang, Indonesia in November 2005	Endorsed at ASEM IV.
10	Asia-Europe Young Political Leaders Summit	Denmark, China	1st: Tianjin, China in November 2005	Endorsed at ASEM V.
11	Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP)		1st: Strasbourg, France in April 1996 2nd: Manila, Philippines in August 2002 3rd: Hue, Vietnam in March 2004 4th: Helsinki, Finland in May 2006	

**Total number of Political Initiatives: 11**

## II. Economic Pillar

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
1	ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting		1st: Makuhari, Japan in September 1997 2nd: Berlin, Germany in October 1999 3rd: Hanoi, Vietnam in September 2001 4th: Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2002 5th: Dailyan, China in July 2003 6th: Rotterdam, the Netherlands in September 2005	
2	ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting		1st: Bangkok, Thailand in September 1997 2nd: Frankfurt, Germany in January 1999 3rd: Kobe, Japan in January 2001 4th: Copenhagen, Denmark in July 2002 5th: Bali, Indonesia in July 2003 6th: Tianjin, China in June 2005 7th: Vienna, Austria in April 2006	
3	ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting	China, Germany	1st: Beijing, China in January 2002 2nd: Lecce, Italy in October 2003	Endorsed at ASEM III.
4	ASEM Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting	China	1st: Beijing, China in October 1999	
5	Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP)		<i>[Refer to Attachment for details]</i>	Adopted at ASEM II.
6	Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP)			Adopted at ASEM II.
7	Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF)		1st: Paris, France in October 1996 2nd: Bangkok, Thailand in November 1997 3rd: London, United Kingdom in April 1998 4th: Seoul, Korea in October 1999 5th: Wien, Austria in September 2000 6th: Singapore in October 2001 7th: Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2002 8th: Seoul, Korea in October 2003 9th: Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2004	Endorsed at ASEM I.
8	Trans-Asian Railway Network	Thailand	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in November 2004	
9	Asia-Europe Environment Technology Centre (AEETC)	Thailand	Experts' Meeting held 10 times till 2002 and was absorbed into Environment Ministers' Meeting.	Endorsed at ASEM I.
10	Studies on the Economic Synergy between Asia and Europe	Japan	A report presented to EMM I.	Endorsed at ASEM I.

11	Study Group on Technological Exchange and Cooperation	China	1st: Beijing, China in April 1997	
12	Asia-Europe Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Conference	Italy	1st: Napoli, Italy in February 1998	Endorsed at ASEM II.
13	ASEM Connect Electronic Resource Network for SMEs	Singapore	- Preparatory meeting held in Singapore in February 1998. - ASEM Connect was launched at ASEM II.	Endorsed at ASEM II.
14	Cooperation on Environment Disasters Preparedness including both Short and Long-Term Programme	United Kingdom		Endorsed at ASEM II.
15	ASEM Trust Fund (ATF)		- The first ATF phase (ATF I) commenced operations in June 1998 and operated until the end of 2002. - ASEM III decided to launch an ATF II.	Endorsed at ASEM II.
16	European Financial Expertise (EFEX) Network	European Commission	EFEX commenced activities in September 1998 and has been fully operational since January 1999.	Endorsed at ASEM II.
17	Asia-Europe Information Technology and Telecommunications Programme (AEITTP)	Thailand	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in May 2001	Noted at ASEM II, but changed to "Seminar on Information and Telecommunication Technology" at ASEM III.
18	Asia-Europe Management Programme	The Philippines	Asia-Europe Management Programme was launched at the Philippine's Asian Institute of Management.	Noted at ASEM II.
19	Network of SME Centres	Thailand		Noted at ASEM II.
20	Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN)	European Commission, France, Korea, Singapore	1st: Seoul, Korea in May 2001 2nd: Brussels, Belgium in March 2002	Endorsed at ASEM III.
21	Initiative to Address the Digital Divide	Japan, Korea, Portugal, Singapore	1st: Seoul, Korea in March 2001	Endorsed at ASEM III.
22	Conference on E-commerce and Logistics	Belgium, Finland, Singapore	1st: Brussels, Belgium in 2001	Endorsed at ASEM III.

23	Seminar on Asia-Europe Cooperation in SMEs			Endorsed at ASEM III.
24	WTO Trade Facilitation Conference		1st: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2001	Endorsed at ASEM III.
25	Anti-money Laundering Initiative	Thailand, United Kingdom	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in September 2003 2nd: Berlin, Germany in October 2003	Endorsed at ASEM III.
26	Science and Technology Cooperation on Forestry Conservation and Sustainable Development	China, Finland	1st: China in July 2001 2nd: Thailand in April 2002	Endorsed at ASEM III.
27	Promoting Business Opportunities in ASEM	Vietnam	A report presented to EMM IV.	Noted at ASEM III.
28	Kobe Research Project	Japan	1st: Kobe, Japan in January 2001 2nd : Seoul, Korea in January 2002	Endorsed at FMM III.
29	ASEM Public Debt Management Forum	Thailand	1st: Chiangmai, Thailand in November 2001 2nd : Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2002	Endorsed at FMM III.
30	ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management	China, France, Portugal	1st: Changsha, China in June 2002	Endorsed at FMM IV.
31	ASEM Co-operation in Training and Technical Assistance in the Banking Sector			
32	Promotion of the Exchange of Experiences in Planning and Implementing Fiscal Policies in ASEM			Noted at FMM IV.
33	Information and Communication Technology Performance Reference Forum			Noted at FMM IV.
34	ASEM Symposium on Multilateral and Regional Economic Relations		1st: Tokyo, Japan in March 2003	
35	ASEM High-level Conference on Agricultural Cooperation	China	1st: Beijing, China in November 2003	

36	Workshop on Building Market Systems in the Context of Globalization	Germany, Vietnam	Concept paper presented to FMM VI.	
37	Task Force on Closer Economic Relations between Asia and Europe		- Held 5 times ( <i>detailed information not available</i> ) - Concluded after presenting final report to ASEM V.	
38	ASEM Symposium on an Iron Silk Road	Finland, Korea	1st: Seoul, Korea in June 2004	Endorsed at FMM VI.
39	ASEM Workshop on Urban Forestry	China	1st: Shzhou & Beijing, China in November 2004	Endorsed at FMM VI.
40	ASEM Workshop on EU-ASIA S&T Cooperation Clean Technology	European Commission, Vietnam	1st: Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2004	Endorsed at ASEM V.
41	ASEM Trade and Investment Exposition	Austria, China, Germany, Thailand	1st: Hamun, China in September 2005	Endorsed at ASEM V.
42	Initiative for Strengthening Cyber Security within the ASEM Region	China, Germany, Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal	1st: Seoul, Korea in June 2005	Endorsed at ASEM V.
43	The ASEM Ocean Initiative	Indonesia, the Philippines, Portugal	1st: Manila, the Philippines in March 2006	Noted at ASEM V.
44	Seminar on Labour Relations	The Netherlands	1st: Hague, the Netherlands in October 1998	

**Total number of Economic Initiatives: 44**

### III. Social/Cultural Pillar

No.	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
1	ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting	China	1st: Beijing, China in December 2003 2nd: Paris, France in June 2005	
2	ASEM Labour Ministers' Conference	Germany	1st: To be held in Berlin, Germany in September 2006	
3	Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)	France, Singapore	ASEF was established in Singapore in 1997 and has carried out over 300 projects.	Endorsed at ASEM I.
4	Asia-Europe University Exchange Programme	Malaysia, Singapore		Endorsed at ASEM I.
5	Intellectual Exchange between Asia and Europe	Japan	1st: Paris, France in 1996 2nd: Tokyo, Japan in 1997	
6	Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium	Austria, Japan	1st: Miyazaki & Tokyo, Japan in March 1997 2nd: Baden bei Wein, Austria in May 1998 3rd: Gangwon Province & Seoul, Korea in May 1999 4th: Limerick, Ireland in June 2000 5th: Putrajaya, Malaysia in October 2001 6th: Berlin, Germany in June 2002 7th: Hochimin city, Vietnam in August 2003 8th: The Hague, the Netherlands in November-December 2004 9th : Beijing & Tenjin, China in November 2005	Endorsed at ASEM I.
7	Promoting the Welfare of Children including Combating Child Abuse	The Philippines, United Kingdom	Held 8 times ( <i>detailed information not available</i> )	Endorsed at ASEM II.
8	Cooperate in Combating Illicit Drugs	United Kingdom		Endorsed at ASEM II.
9	Protection and Promotion on Cultural Heritage in ASEM countries	France, Vietnam	Held 2 times ( <i>detailed information not available</i> )	Noted at ASEM II.
10	Asia-Europe Cooperation in Combining Traditional and Modern Medicine and Treatment for Community Health Care	Vietnam	Held 2 times ( <i>detailed information not available</i> )	Noted at ASEM II.

11	ASEM Education Hubs	Singapore	1st: Fontainebleau, France in November 1999 2nd: Singapore in November 2003	Endorsed at FMM II.
12	Seminar on the Roles of State & Market	Denmark, Korea	1st: Copenhagen, Denmark in March 1999	Noted at ASEM II.
13	Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children	The Philippines, Sweden, Thailand	1st: Stockholm, Sweden in November 2000 2nd: Bangkok, Thailand in 2002 3rd: Bangkok, Thailand in 2003	Endorsed at ASEM III.
14	Initiative on HIV/AIDS	Malaysia, United Kingdom		Endorsed at ASEM III.
15	ASEM DUO Fellowship Program	France, Korea, Singapore	- Secretariat set up in Seoul, Korea in 2001 to facilitate implementation. - Has provided financial supports to enhance reciprocal academic exchanges of students, teachers and professors of ASEM member countries. - Denmark joined the program at ASEM IV.	- Endorsed at ASEM III for the period of 2001~2005. - Endorsed at ASEM V for another extended period of 2006~2010.
16	Human Resource Development in Information and Communications Technology	The Philippines		Noted at ASEM III.
17	Seminar on Asia-Europe Cooperation on the Applications of Information	Thailand		Noted at ASEM III.
18	Overcoming Cultural Nuances: Toward a New Public Management	The Philippines		Noted at ASEM III.
19	Ministerial Conference on Cooperation for the Management of Migratory Flows Europe-Asia	China, Germany, Spain	-First Meeting was held in Lanzarote, Spain in April 2002 at Minister level. -Following meetings were held 4 times at DG level.	Endorsed at ASEM III.
20	Lifelong Learning	Denmark, Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore	1st: Denmark and Singapore in 2002 A report presented to ASEM VI.	Endorsed at FMM III.
21	Seminar on Asia-Europe cooperation in the Applications of Information Technology to Human Resources Development in the Mekong Sub-region	Thailand		Endorsed at FMM III.

22	Promotion of ASEM Tourism Cooperation for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Elimination, and Enhancing Prosperity			
23	ASEM Information Board		ASEM Infoboard website established and run by ASEF.	
24	Asia-Europe Cooperation on Promoting Awareness in the Young Generation of the Drug Problem	Thailand, United Kingdom		Endorsed at ASEM IV.
25	ASEM Symposium on Educational Exchange	Japan		
26	ASEM Youth Games	Thailand	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in July 2005	
27	ASEM Workshop on the Future of Employment and the Quality of Labour	China, Germany, Ireland, Spain	3 workshops held. ( <i>detailed information not available</i> )	
28	ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights	France, Sweden	1st: Lund, Sweden in December 1997 2nd: Beijing, China in June 1999 3rd: Paris, France in June 2000 4th: Bali, Indonesia in July 2001 5th: Lund, Sweden in May 2003 6th: Shzhou, China in September 2004 7th: Budapest, Hungary in February 2006	
29	Human Rights Education, Manual on Understanding Human Rights	Austria		
30	ASEM Seminar on the Management of Public Health Emergency	China	1st: Beijing, China in October 2003	
31	ASEM Cooperation on HIV/AIDS Control	The Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Vietnam		Endorsed at ASEM V.
32	ASEM Seminar on Health Quarantine Cooperation to Prevent and Control Communicable Diseases	Vietnam		Noted at ASEM V.

33	ASEM Cooperation in the Applications of ICT in Human Resource Development and Capacity Building	Brunei Darussalam, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Vietnam	Held once ( <i>detailed information not available</i> )	Endorsed at ASEM V.
34	ASEM Education and Research Hub for Life Long Learning	Denmark, Sweden, Thailand		Endorsed at ASEM V.
35	The Inter-Faith Dialogue	European Commission, Indonesia, United Kingdom	1st: Bali, Indonesia in July 2005 2nd: To be held in Larnaca, Cyprus in July 2006	Endorsed at ASEM V.
36	Meeting of Environment Officials and Technology Transfer Centres		1st: Dusseldorf, Germany in March 1998	
37	Asia-Europe Centre/ Asia-Europe Institute	Malaysia	Asia-Europe Centre was established in 1997 and upgraded to Asia-Europe Institute.	
38	Collaborative Research Program on Networking			Noted at ASEM III.
39	Project for a Euro-Asian Network for the Monitoring and Control of Communicable Diseases	France		Noted at ASEM III.
40	ASEM Meeting of General Directors and experts in the field of vocational education and training – “Strengthening human resources through VET”	Germany	1st: Berlin, Germany in February 2006	

**Total number of Social/Cultural Initiatives: 40**

**Attachment: ASEM TFAP & IPAP Initiatives**

**ASEM TFAP& IPAP Initiatives**

**I. ASEM Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP)**

No	Name of Initiative	Status
1	Meeting on eCommerce	1st : Korea in October 2001 2nd : Finland in September 2002 3rd : Korea in October 2003 4th : London in February 2005
2	Customs DG-Commissioner Meeting	1st : China in June 1996 2nd : Austria in June 1997 3rd : Belgium in June 1999 4th : Sweden in July 2001 5th : Korea in September 2003
3	Customs Procedures Working Group (PWG) Meeting	1st : Belgium in March 1997 2nd : Belgium in March 1998 3rd : Philippines in February 1999 4th : Belgium in April 2000 5th : Thailand in April 2001 6th : Belgium in March 2002 7th : Indonesia in December 2003 8th : Brussels in April 2005
4	Customs Enforcement Working Group (EWG) Meeting	1st : Belgium in February 1997 2nd : Belgium in February 1998 3rd : Belgium in February 1999 4th : Belgium in February 2000 5th : Belgium in March 2001 6th : Malaysia in February 2002 7th : Malaysia in March 2003 8th : Brussels in May 2005 9th : Seoul in April 2006
5	Working Group on Intellectual Property	1st : Paris in June 1996 2nd : Thailand in March 2000 3rd : Vietnam in May 2002 4th : Bangkok in June 2003 (Seminar on Geographical Indications)

6	Meeting on Standards and Conformity Assessment (SCA)	1st : Belgium in September 1998 2nd : Seoul in March 1999 3rd : Belgium in October 1999 4th : Thailand in February 2000 5th : Belgium in October 2000 6th : Belgium in November 2001 7th : China in April 2002 8th : Belgium in December 2002 9th : Vietnam in December 2003 10th : Brussels in April 2004 11th : Tokyo in February 2005
7	Seminar on Government Procurement	1st Germany in September 1999 2nd Tokyo in March 2001
8	Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	1st : Thailand in February 1999 2nd : China in September 1999 3rd : Netherlands in September 2000 4th : Netherlands in June 2002 5th : Switzerland in April 2003

## II. ASEM Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP)

No	Name of Initiative	Status
1	Investment Experts Group (IEG)	1st : France in November 1998 2nd : Singapore in February 1999 3rd : Belgium in June 1999 4th : Korea in May 2000 5th : Belgium in July 2001 6th : Indonesia in July 2002 7th : France in June 2003