

# Working with CSOs in the context of ASEM process, the experience of ASEF

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**Policy Forum on Development**

24-25 June 2015 | Bangkok, Thailand

# THE ASEM PROCESS



- Initiated in 1996
- Informal process of dialogue & cooperation
- Brings together 51 countries from Asia & Europe plus the European Union & the ASEAN Secretariat

# ASEM'S KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Equal partnership
- Multi-dimensionality
- Informality
- Dual focus on high-level and people-to-people dialogues

# ASEM'S WORKING MECHANISMS & PLATFORMS

- **Official level:**
  - ASEM Summits
  - ASEM Ministerial Meetings (Foreign Affairs, Finance, Culture, Economics, Education, Environment, Labour, Transport)
  - ASEM Senior Officials' Meetings (prepare Ministerials)
  - ASEM Chairman Support Group (ACSG; initiated in 2011)
  - ASEM Initiatives
- **Non-official level:**
  - Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF)
  - Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP)
  - Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF)

# ASEF & THE ASEM PROCESS

## Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

- Founded in 1997 (26 members; 2014: 53)
- Inter-governmental not-for-profit organisation
- Only permanently established institution of the **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** process
- Originally initiated under the aegis of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (socio-cultural) pillar of ASEM
- Funded by annual voluntary contributions from the 53 ASEM members



# ASEF MEMBERS

## Asian Members (22)

- ASEAN 10 + ASEAN Secretariat
- China + Japan + Korea + Mongolia
- Bangladesh + India + Pakistan
- Australia + New Zealand
- Russian Federation + Kazakhstan

## European Members (31)

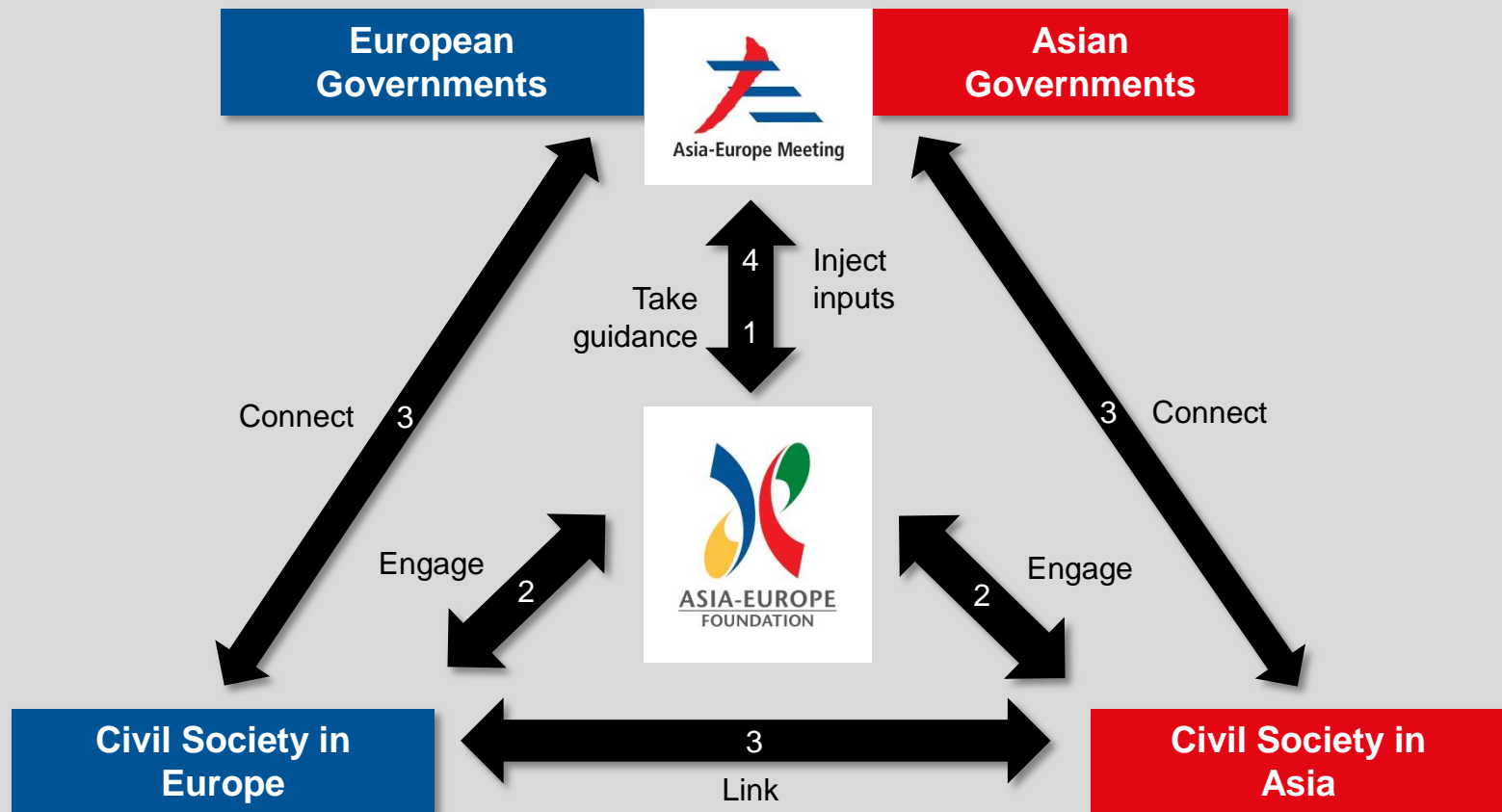
- EU 28 + European Union
- Norway + Switzerland

## ASEF'S MANDATE

- Promote better **understanding** between Asians & Europeans
- Enable **exchanges** between people, institutions & organisations of Asia & Europe
- Organise & implement **projects** in Asia & Europe

*(Dublin Agreed Principles, 1996; amended 2004)*

# ASEF'S ROLE





# ASEF'S THEMATIC WORK SCOPE I

## Culture

### ASEF Cultural Policy Programme

- ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series
- WorldCP

### ASEF Cultural Platforms & Networks Programme

- ASEF culture360
- Creative Encounters
- ASEF Creative Networks
- Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)

## Economy

- Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)
- Social Enterprise

## Education

### ASEF Higher Education Programme (AHEP)

- ASEM Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum (ARC)
- ASEF Education Workshop
- ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub (ASEM LLL Hub)

### ASEF Young Leaders Programme

- ASEF University (AU)
- ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN)
- ASEF Classroom Network (ClassNet)
- Model ASEM

# ASEF'S THEMATIC WORK SCOPE II

## Governance

- Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights
- Migration in Asia & Europe
- Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative

## Public Health

- ASEF Public Health Network

## Sustainable Development

- Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
- Asia-Europe: Energy Challenges and Climate Change

## ASEF Media Programme

- ASEF Editors' Roundtable / ASEF Journalists' Colloquium

## ASEF Focus

- ASEF Outlook Report

## ASEM Focus

- ASEM InfoBoard

# ASEF & CSOs: Engage, Link, Connect I



**ASEF Experts' Meeting & Public Forum in the framework of the Asia-Europe Culture Ministers' Meeting**

# ASEF & CSOs: Engage, Link, Connect II



**ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum & their contribution to ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting**



# ASEF & CSOs: Engage, Link, Connect III



Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

# ASEF'S RESULTS

**17 years**

**over 650 projects**

**over 700 partners**

**over 17,000 active participants**

## **Tangible Results (Outputs):**

- Publications
- Reports
- Web-portals
- Networks
- Collaborations

## **Intangible Results (Outcomes):**

- Sharing of knowledge & practices
- Networking
- Added value to the ASEM process by
  - increased knowledge on Asia-Europe relations
  - enhanced mutual understanding among the people
  - better conditions for future cooperation

[www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org)

