

NEWSLETTER May 2011

ASEMME3, COPENHAGEN 9-10 May 2011

3rd ASIA-EUROPE MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION (ASEMME3)

Copenhagen, 9-10 May 2011

As agreed during the last Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi (2009), Denmark hosted the 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3) in Copenhagen from 9th to 10th May 2011. 160 participants from 40 ASEM countries (including for the first time Australia, New Zealand and Russia) were welcomed by the Danish Minister for Education, Troels Lund Poulsen. The Copenhagen Meeting focused on four main topics, namely "Quality Assurance and Recognition", "Engaging Business and Industry in Education", "Balanced Mobility" and "Lifelong Learning including Vocational Education Training".

Each topic was introduced by different keynote speakers. Jan Truszczyński, Director General for Education and Culture in the European Commission, presented Europe's efforts and achievements in quality assurance and recognition in cross-boarder education with special regard to examples of good practice resulting from the Bologna Process. The Asian perspective concerning this topic was highlighted by Ju-Ho Lee, Minister of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea. Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Mohd Yassin Muhyiddin, who is at the same time Minister for Education, focused his introductory words on cooperation between education and the world of work. He pointed out that collaboration between universities and industry depends on anticipated benefits and the bargaining positions of the parties.

On the second conference day, the Chinese Vice Minister for Education, Dr. Hao Ping, introduced the topic of balanced mobility by giving an overview on China's internationalization initiatives. The Vietnamese Deputy Minister Bui Van Ga presented the manifold efforts of his country concerning Lifelong Learning.

During the two-day Meeting, almost all Heads of Delegations took the opportunity to give their views on the four topics. The delegates acknowledged the need to create more transparency and to develop common principles of quality assurance in order to

enhance educational cooperation and mobility between Asia and Europe. They also agreed that cooperation between business and academia needs to be intensified to ensure employability of students and graduates. Different models are already in place, but still more needs to be done in view of rapid social and economic changes and demographic challenges in both regions.

In order to intensify and enhance mobility, quite a number of obstacles have to be removed, such as lacking of funds, insufficient foreign language skills and intercultural competences, non-recognition of qualifications gained abroad, and too strict administrative regulations. Embedding mobility in national and institutional internationalization strategies and developing more joint curricula and joint degree programmes, appear to be a promising means to achieve a more balanced mobility.

In the ASEM context, international cooperation in the field of Lifelong Learning is getting increasingly important and the exchange of information and creating transparency on qualifications frameworks in both regions could help improving exchange of individuals and recognitions of qualifications.

In his concluding remarks the Danish Minister for Education thanked the delegations for their commitment to further intensify Asia-Europe cooperation in education and for their readiness to organise various conferences and carry out concrete activities in the coming two years. He especially thanked Malaysia, Latvia and the Republic of Korea for hosting the next Ministerial Conferences and Indonesia for hosting the ASEM Secretariat as of September 2013.

The Meeting acknowledged the good work of the ASEM Education Secretariat and mandated the Secretariat to assist the ASEM members in implementing the proposed initiatives and to inform the Ministers on the progress achieved with a stocktaking report for ASEMME4 in 2013.

29 Steps to strengthen the ASEM Education Process

Conclusions by the Chair
(see full text on the Secretariat's website)

A. Quality Assurance and Recognition

The Ministers:

1. Laid emphasis on strengthening interregional cooperation in the field of external quality assurance between quality assurance agencies and networks in Asia and Europe by organising joint meetings, with a view to develop common principles of quality assurance across the ASEM education area. Germany offers to host a first expert seminar in 2011. In order to ensure the continuity of the dialogue on quality assurance a seminar will be held in France in 2012. Progress and results will be presented for ASEMME4. With support of the ASEM Education Secretariat, an extensive glossary of quality assurance terms used in both regions should be compiled;
2. Urged the ASEM members to improve mutual recognition of qualifications by developing a common understanding of credits and learning outcomes; the ASEM Education Secretariat has already compiled relevant information on credits and learning outcomes in ASEM countries and is asked to regularly update this information on its website;
3. Suggested exploring the feasibility of setting up an ASEM convention on mutual recognition of degrees and study achievements (including the establishment of National Information and Recognition Centres in all ASEM countries); Austria volunteers to take an active part in establishing an ASEM pilot group of experts who will inform ASEMME4 about the progress;
4. Proposed to consider the implementation of the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education across the ASEM Education Area.

B. Engaging Business and Industry in Education

The Ministers:

5. Agreed to make the ASEM University-Business Forum (organised for the first time in Bangkok,

March 2010) an annual event; the Forum should identify examples of good practice, develop ideas and make recommendations on how to improve university-business cooperation between ASEM countries; Germany offers to host the second ASEM University-Business Forum in late 2011. Malaysia offers to host a stakeholder meeting in 2012;

6. Invited the European Commission to link the ASEM University-Business Forum to the EU University-Business Forum and include a specific session with Asian and European representatives from academia and the world of work that will contribute to deepen the dialogue on bi-regional university-business cooperation in areas such as participation of employers in curriculum development and the labour-market relevance of graduate qualifications; also the organisers of future ASEM University Business Forum are asked to consider balanced participation from Asia and Europe.
7. Invited ASEF through the ASEM Rectors' Conference to contribute to the ASEM University-Business Forum, in order to enhance the dialogue on higher education-business cooperation between stakeholders;
8. Considered the establishment of an ASEM placement programme in terms of setting up a pilot scheme for higher education-business mobility of qualified students between Asia and Europe (partly funded by public resources and industry);
9. Asked to explore the possibility to open up the EU ERASMUS Mundus Programme to the exchange of ASEM placement students in the next phase of the programme.

C. Balanced Mobility

The Ministers:

10. Shared the view that learning mobility between Asia and Europe should be more balanced and urged the ASEM Education Secretariat to organise workshops in order to develop, together with experts from ASEM members, a strategy for balanced mobility and prepare a first draft with

recommendations for the next ministerial meeting;

11. Underscored the need for more and better data on student and staff mobility between Asia and Europe to provide a solid basis for political conclusions and decisions;
12. Resolved to improve the level of information on educational opportunities in Asia and Europe among people and invite ASEM members to support ASEM in its effort to update and maintain the DEEP database;
13. Encouraged the ASEM members to increase the number of joint study programmes (e.g. in Asian and European studies) and summer schools between Asian and European higher education institutions by using various programmes and funding schemes; an ASEM pilot scheme for joint curriculum development, funded by interested ASEM countries, could be envisaged;
14. Agreed to promote student, teacher, researcher and administrative staff exchanges by using existing mobility schemes; the Ministers acknowledged the efforts made by ASEM DUO to strengthen the bilateral student and teacher exchange between Asian and European institutions and took note of the extension of the ASEM DUO programme to its third phase; the ASEM DUO secretariat is to be evaluated and looks forward to presenting the results at ASEMME4;
15. Proposed to enhance mobility between Asia and Europe by intensifying promotional activities in both regions, appointing competent students and staff with a mobility experience as “ambassadors for mobility” in each ASEM country and organising ASEM education fairs in Asia and Europe (e.g. with EU support). The ASEM Education Secretariat is asked to set up an expert group to explore the usefulness of a promotion strategy for the ASEM Education Area;
16. Encouraged ASEM members to organise thematic training seminars on removing obstacles to mobility (e.g. recognition), funded by EU or national resources; the Ministers welcomed Thailand’s offer to host an international ASEM conference on mobility in late 2011.

D. Lifelong Learning (LLL) including Vocational Education and Training (VET)

The Ministers:

17. Affirmed their commitment to enhancing adult and community education and acknowledged the importance of lifelong learning as the space in which democratic social and political participation can be fostered and practised, in the service of social cohesion and the quality of life;
18. Encouraged the strengthening of lifelong learning research base in universities and research institutes in the ASEM area, including their capacity for international exchange of information and analysis, in order to contribute to evidence based educational reform and innovation;
19. Recommended dissemination of good practices, such as learning cities, learning communities, learning festivals, learning entitlements, lifelong learning accounts, vouchers for lifelong learning and academic credit banks system, literacy programmes, professionalization of adult teachers, etc., and sharing of research findings in lifelong learning between ASEM countries through the coordination of ASEM LLL Hub in cooperation with UNESCO and other international organisations;
20. Encouraged workplace learning and increase of both employer responsibilities for provision and employee opportunities for participation;
21. Welcomed Denmark’s offer to host an “ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning” in April 2012 under the coordination of the ASEM LLL Hub during the Danish EU presidency;
22. Called attention to continuing the dialogue on qualifications frameworks between Asian and European experts in order to improve transparency and knowledge of the varied approaches to and understandings of lifelong learning in both regions;
23. Encouraged the exchange of experience on how qualifications frameworks affect lifelong learning and assure broad stakeholder acceptance of new forms of adult learning, thereby especially underlining the idea of enhancing and supporting the development of qualifications frameworks – including validation and recognition of informal and non-formal

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learning outcomes and flexible pathways to further education and career. In this context, the Ministers welcomed Vietnam's offer to host a conference on qualifications framework and Germany's offer to organise the next Vocational Education Training Symposium with special regard to qualifications frameworks in early 2012;

24. Requested the Senior Officials and the ASEM Education Secretariat to provide the ASEMME4 with a systematic overview on existing qualifications frameworks models (including conclusions concerning ASEM education cooperation);
25. Asked to document best practices in VET, particularly those reflecting industry school partnerships which can be shared by all participating countries; a workshop hosted by Austria will present these examples;
26. Suggested establishing an expert group in order to elaborate the development of joint VET initiatives;
27. Welcomed Malaysia's offer to host an expert meeting on e-learning as a component of lifelong learning;
28. Agreed to support, disseminate and utilise the ASEM LLL Hub's research activities in national contexts and invited countries to contribute to the operation of the ASEM LLL Hub secretariat, for example by sending staff to work at the secretariat for a period;
29. Encouraged ASEM members to support the cooperation between the ASEM LLL Hub, relevant EU networks and the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning in order to maximise knowledge and scholarly exchanges in the field between Asia and Europe.

The Ministers welcomed:

- Malaysia's offer to host the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4) in 2013;
- Indonesia's offer to host the ASEM Education Secretariat as of October 2013. ASEM members are invited to second staff to the ASEM Education Secretariat;

- Latvia's offer to host the Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME5) in 2015;
- The Republic of Korea's offer to host the Sixth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME6) in 2017.

ACTIVITIES IN ASEM

ROADMAP TO ASEMME4

According to the Chair's Conclusions from ASEMME3, we have prepared an overview on country initiatives proposed during the Copenhagen Meeting which you can find at the end of this Newsletter. Please provide us with further details in order to keep the overview updated.

PROJECT: ASEM RECOGNITION CONVENTION (A 3 of ASEMME3)

ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA – Recognition Information Centre within the Federal Ministry of Science and Research is pursuing a project to create a Recognition Convention within the Asia-Europe Meeting Platform. – This is a consequence of endeavours existing in ASEM to enhance the situation of recognition in the field of academic recognition within the member countries. The idea is to find “the best of two worlds”: All European ASEM member countries except Greece are parties to the “Lisbon Recognition Convention”, most Asian ASEM member countries are parties to the “Asia Pacific Regional Recognition Convention”. – Additionally to the bilateral recognition agreements between Asian countries among themselves and with European countries, and also between European countries among themselves, and with Asian countries, an ASEM Recognition Convention would definitely widen the scope of application of fair recognition rules for a large part of the world. **ASEM member countries are asked to nominate experts in order to establish an ASEM pilot group which should explore the feasibility of setting up an ASEM convention on mutual recognition of degrees and study achievements.**

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The ASEM Education Secretariat will collect your proposals and forward them to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research. Please submit your suggestions to Ms. Nina Scholle-Pollmann (scholle-pollmann@daad.de) from the ASEM Education Secretariat by August 15th 2011.

UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COOPERATION

China

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARKS IN CHINA

The Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China jointly promote the development of National University Science and Technology Parks to accelerate the transition from research achievements to productivity, to provide support for incubating pioneering enterprises and to encourage creativity and innovation. According to the list published on the official website of the Chinese Ministry of Education, there are currently 69 National University Science and Technology Parks supported by 109 universities or colleges in China. These Parks serve as important platforms for university-business cooperation. For further information, please refer to:

Official website of the Chinese Ministry of Education:
<http://202.205.177.9/edoas/website18/72/info1240803227649272.htm>

Tuspark ---Tsinghua University:
www.tuspark.com

Zhongguancun National Innovation Demonstration Zone
www.zgc.gov.cn

Huazhong Normal University Science and Technology Park:
www.scitechpark.com.cn

New Zealand

UNIVERSITIES SHOWCASE SUCCESS IN ENERGY SECTOR

An event in Wellington focussing on the progress of energy, infrastructure and water, showed that strengthening the working relationship between

university and private sector in New Zealand continues to be nurtured by The University-Business Partnership

"We want to help business solve business problems and create new opportunities. The research being done in our universities and the innovations that are emerging can be harnessed by local businesses to improve the way they do business and their bottom line.", said Managing Director at Viclink, Geoff Todd.

Several recent research are offered, including Victoria University's "bach". Using energy-efficient technologies, generate its own electricity, which means never pay the electricity bills anymore. Then Waikato University which offers the development of retro-fit electricity monitoring and control devices for domestic homes that will allow householders to achieve smarter control of their own electricity consumption without compromising comfort. They also offer the discovery of enzymes that can create bioethanol from wood waste.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/business/universities-showcase-success-energy-sector/5/89545>

MULTI- AND UNI-LATERAL ACTIVITIES

Bilateral

CHINA TO FURTHER EDUCATION COOPERATION WITH INDONESIA

China would further enhance cooperation in education with Indonesia. This was said by Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabo in his two-day visit in Indonesia. During his visit at Al Azhar University in Jakarta, Indonesia, he expressed his hope that the university will continue to uphold the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, and further enhance cooperation and exchanges with Chinese colleges and universities to enhance bilateral cooperation. The Prime Minister said that the youth in China and Indonesia was the foundation and future of bilateral friendship and he encouraged Indonesian students to visit China so that they can experience the real China. Meanwhile, the Rector of Al Azhar University Zuhaili, said the university would make further efforts to enhance cultural exchange between the two countries

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and deepen mutual understanding of the two peoples. As a partner with several universities in China, Al Azhar University founded the Chinese language Centre last year providing Chinese language and culture courses.

For detailed information please refer to:

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/7366418.html>

Unilateral

ADB WILL FUND STATE-OF-THE-ART UNIVERSITY TO AID VIETNAM'S BOOMING ECONOMY

ADB, May 3, 2011

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved loans of \$190 million for the establishment of the University of Science and Technology of Ha Noi in Vietnam. This university is reported to be a state-of-the-art institution which will support research, technical innovation, and skills development. According to Mr. Norman LaRocque, ADB's Senior Education Specialist for Southeast Asia, "The new institution will provide an improved policy framework for the governance, financing, and quality assurance of universities that could be extended across Viet Nam."

The Government of France will extend about €100 million over 10 years as complement to the ADB assistance for the development of the university. The Government of Viet Nam provides \$23 million.

For more information please refer to:

<http://www.adb.org/article.asp?id=13539>

seminars which have been held in Berlin and Cyprus in 2010.

Malaysia

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia is planning to hold a one day seminar on "Bridging The Gap Between Industry and Academia" in Petaling Jaya on July 19th 2011. The seminar will discuss and address issues pertaining to preparing engineering students to possess market driven skills, based on industry-academia collaborations. Speakers from international companies will be invited to share their experiences in handling fresh graduates and what can be done to prepare them for future work.

<http://www.myiem.org.my>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Germany

ASEM SEMINAR ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Following the Chair's Conclusions of the Copenhagen Meeting, Germany hosts an expert seminar on regional quality assurance. This seminar will take place in Bonn from 5th to 6th July 2011 and will bring together about 50 experts from National and International Accreditation Agencies and Networks. The seminar is conceived as a follow-up of previous

PRESS REVIEW

THIS PRESS REVIEW ONLY REFLECTS ARTICLES
PUBLISHED REGARDING ASEMME3

The host country: Denmark

Danish Ministry of Education, May 11, 2011

Web-tv: Asia-Europe meeting in Copenhagen

View a video reportage from the Asia Europe Meeting for Ministers of Education held in Copenhagen 9-10 May 2011.

Online:

<http://eng.uvm.dk/Aktuelt/News/Eng/2011/Maj/110511%20Web-tv%20Asia-Europe%20meeting%20in%20Copenhagen.aspx>

Brunei Darussalam

BruDirect.com, May 11, 2011

Education Minister in Copenhagen for 3rd ASEM Conference

Bandar Seri Begawan - The Minister of Education, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, attended the 3rd ASEM Conference of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3), hosted by the Danish Ministry of Education, on Monday. The two-day conference is aimed at gathering education ministers from ASEM member countries to discuss and share their views on the issues of quality assurance and recognition, engaging business and industry in education, balanced mobility, and lifelong learning.

Discussions in previous ASEMME conferences have clearly demonstrated that quality assurance issues are very high on the political and institutional agenda in Asia and Europe. The responses from ASEMME member countries revealed that the quality of institutions and study programmes have led to the establishment and strengthening of mobility between institutions of higher learning in the two regions.

Online:

<http://brudirect.com/index.php/2011051047058/Loc>

al-News/education-minister-in-copenhagen-for-3rd-asem-conference.html

China

Xinhua, May 10, 2011

Education ministers discuss balanced student flows between Asia, Europe

European and Asian education ministers met here Tuesday to discuss how to balance flows of students between higher education institutes in Asia and Europe. The ministers, as well as stakeholders in the higher education sector, met at the Third Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) for Ministers of Education to discuss balanced student mobility, quality assurance, and ways to engage business and industry in education. "We have had many recommendations but have especially discussed the need to make connections between business and educational institutions," said Danish Education Minister Troels Lund Poulsen.

"We also discussed mobility, that is the exchange of students from Asia to Europe and from Europe to Asia," he told Xinhua. Hao Ping, vice minister of China's Ministry of Education, presenting a paper on the mobility of students and staff between higher education institutes in Asia and Europe. Siegbert Wuttig, director of the ASEM education secretariat, said there is currently "imbalanced mobility between Asia and Europe." "We are trying, for instance, to increase the number of European students who may like to spend some time in Asian countries," Wuttig told Xinhua. Wuttig believed there is a need to improve transparency in quality assurance, saying some of the national delegations at the meeting were interested in developing a common qualification framework. This would help correctly recognize qualifications and enable smoother exchange of students and academics, he said. Rujhan Mustafa, director-general of Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education, said that "Through quality assurance and recognition, we can have a proper balanced mobility of staff and students within Asia and Europe." Malaysia is scheduled to host the next ASEM summit in 2013, and is expecting to host up to 150,000 foreign students by 2015.

According to Mustafa, the country wants to "develop a framework of how credit transfers can be put in place." This means students spending a semester abroad can count those credits towards courses back home. Delegates pointed out that implementing joint curricula, summer courses and collaboratively-financed programs can also help balance student mobility. "We would welcome more national investment in structured collaboration programs," said Elizabeth Colucci from the Brussels-based European University Association, a higher-education forum. "On the Asian side, there is interest in embedding mobility in collaborative frameworks, in joint-degree programs and programs whereby you can guarantee that both parties are exchanging students. This can contribute to more of a balanced circulation of students and staff," she told Xinhua. Ultimately, such balance could help regulate potentially harmful talent-flows from developing to developed countries. "We would like to avoid 'brain-drain' and would instead prefer to see 'brain-circulation' by inspiring people to return to their home country after they have completed their degree in Europe, for instance," Wuttig remarked. The summit also discussed bringing students closer to the needs of the labor market and developing the skills-base of a country's workforce by focusing on vocational training. "We have a long tradition of vocational training in Denmark, and many Asian countries are trying to get hold of what we are doing here because they would like to transfer some of the Danish ideas and institutions to their countries," Poulsen said.

Online:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/culture/2011-05/11/c_13868483.htm

Korea – Host country 2017

KBS World, May 8, 2011

Gov't Seeks to Host 2017 ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education

The government will seek to host the sixth ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education set for 2017. Education Minister Lee Joo-ho will attend the third

event set to open on Monday and Tuesday in Copenhagen, Denmark and express the intent to host the sixth meeting. The minister will then visit Washington from Tuesday through Sunday to meet with John Holdren, director of the White House Office of science and technology, and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu to discuss ways to improve bilateral cooperation in science and technology. Lee on Friday will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, which will be the first such meeting between the two nations in 30 years. The two sides are expected to discuss education issues of common interests.

Online:

http://world.kbs.co.kr/english/news/news_Dm_detail.htm?No=81398&id=Dm

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea, May 6, 2011

Vice Minister Discusses Asia-EU Educational Cooperation at ASEM Ministerial Meeting **Multilateral Cooperation Division**

Representing the Republic of Korea, Vice Minister Jong-Koo Park of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology joined high-ranking officials from Asia and Europe in an extensive round of discussion on ways to promote higher education exchange and cooperation between both continents, at the 1st ASEM Conference of Ministers Responsible for Education held on May 5~6, 2008 in Berlin, Germany. During the round-table discussion, Mr. Park called attention to the fact that a considerable imbalance exists in terms of the exchange volume between Asia and Europe, with a less number of Europeans seeking academic opportunities in Asia than the other way around. Mr. Park stressed the need to expand current and future exchange activities towards balanced development, presenting the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program, initiated in 2000 during the ASEM Summit, as a successful model of two-way exchange.

Online:

<http://english.mest.go.kr/web/42207/en/board/enview.do?bbsId=265&pageSize=10¤tPage=18&boardSeq=1534&mode=view>

Malaysia – Host country 2013

The Star, May 11, 2011

Move to boost vocational training

The Government will look towards the European experience to boost technical and vocational education (TVET) training in Malaysia, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

There could be tie-ups with European institutions involving the exchange of teaching staff, students and curriculum, he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said only 10% of Malaysian students were enrolled in local TVET institutions.

The Government hoped to raise the number to 20% over the next five years, he said.

"However, the percentage is still low compared with Indonesia which has achieved the 40% mark while Thailand and Singapore are not far behind," he said.

In France, about 61% of students opted for vocational education, he told a press conference to wrap up his visit to Denmark.

Online:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/5/11/nation/8654839&sec=nation>

Bernama, May 10, 2011

Malaysia to host fourth Asemme

Malaysia will host the Asia-Europe Meeting For Ministers of Education (ASEMME) in 2013, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, said Malaysia's selection as the host for the fourth meeting was endorsed at the third ASEMME that was being held here. Speaking to Malaysian journalists here Monday, he said that as the host, Malaysia could put forward concepts that would benefit the country and forge cooperations with the ASEM member countries. "When we become the host, we have the opportunity to present our views. We can determine the topics that can bring benefit to us and they will give their views," he said. Muhyiddin, who is in the Danish capital since Sunday, was given the honour to speak at the ASEMME plenary session entitled "Tackling Business and Industry in Education" before departing for Paris on Monday.

Online:

http://education.bernama.com/index.php?sid=news_content&id=585269

Malaysian Digest, May 10, 2011

Academia-Industry Partnership important to economic and social development

The academia and industry in member nations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) should reduce obstacles in building beneficial partnerships given the importance of such collaboration to the socio-economic development of the countries concerned, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin told a conference on education here.

Speaking at the plenary session of the ASEM For Ministers of Education (ASEMME) on Monday, Muhyiddin who is also the Education Minister, said that forging such alliance could be a challenge because universities and the industry were driven by different incentive systems.

Universities were primarily driven to create new knowledge and to educate in support of their core roles whereas industry and business were focused on capturing valuable knowledge that could be leveraged for competitive advantage, he said.

Online:

<http://www.malaysiandigest.com/component/content/article/38-health/22743-academia-industry-partnership-important-to-economic-and-social-development.html>

Bernama, May 10, 2011

Malaysia to learn from Europe's experience in revamping vocational education

Malaysia will learn from Europe's experience in the field of technical and vocational education in implementing educational transformation to revamp the country's system of vocational study, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. In transforming vocational education where vocational schools would be turned into vocational colleges, the vocational curriculum and learning would be strengthened, among other things, by learning from the European experience, he said.

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Online:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=585302>

The Star, May 9, 2011

KL to seek better ties with Nordic varsities

Malaysia will use the third Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) of Ministers of Education here to discuss better education ties with the Nordic countries, said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

"We hope to enhance two-way student mobility between Malaysia and the Nordic countries in specific programmes that involve harmonisation and credit transfers," Khaled told *The Star*.

"We will identify universities from the respective countries which can initiate this."

Education issues of interest to Malaysia, particularly in matters shifting towards an economy based on innovation, will also be discussed at the ASEM meeting.

Online:

<http://thestar.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/5/9/nation/8643646&sec=nation>

News Straits Times, May 8, 2011

Better learning ties with Europe

Malaysia hopes to enhance educational ties with Europe and at the same time, attract its students to the country to further strengthen its position as an educational hub in the region.

This is one of its aims at the two-day Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference of Ministers of Education to be held in this city, the capital of Denmark, from tomorrow. Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also education minister, will lead a delegation comprising Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, and representatives from public and private higher educational institutions to the conference. Muhyiddin will present a speech titled "Engaging Business and Industry in Education" tomorrow during the first plenary session at the ASEM conference, which is being held for the third time. Online: http://www.nst.com.my/nst/articles/08sco/Article/art_print

University World News

University World News, May 15, 2011, Issue 171

GLOBAL: Need to balance Europe-Asia student flows

Education ministers from more than 40 European and Asian countries met in Copenhagen last week to discuss how to balance the flow of students between the two continents – a movement heavily biased towards Asian students studying in Europe.

Country representatives from both Europe and Asia said improving mutual recognition of higher education qualifications was a key factor for more balanced mobility, in particular to attract more European students to study in Asia, as was better information on the quality of higher education in receiving countries.

"Through quality assurance and recognition we can have proper balanced mobility of staff and students within Asia and Europe," said Rajhan Mustafa, Director General of Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education.

The third Asia Europe meeting (ASEM) of education ministers heard that the number of Asian students on courses, including short exchanges, in Europe was around six times higher than the number of students from Europe going to Asia. The ministers and officials who met from 9-10 May agreed to explore the possibility of a new convention on mutual recognition of degrees by European and Asian countries. This would include establishing information and degree recognition centres in all European and Asian countries to facilitate mutual recognition and establish equivalence of different systems. The delegates also discussed lifelong learning and engaging business and industry in higher education. Asian countries have identified funding, language challenges and immigration issues with difficulties over visa applications, as well as worries about degree recognition, as the top reasons hampering student mobility.

The main obstacles for European students wanting to study in Asia have also been identified as language and cultural barriers, insufficient funding, and concerns over the recognition of degrees back home. However the magnitude of the problems that hamper mobility

is still not clear. "One of the problems is that many countries have difficulty in collecting the data," said Chaidarun Iamphak, officer in charge of European countries for the Thailand education ministry's Office of the Higher Education Commission, who attended the meeting. "It is very difficult to get reliable data, on inbound or outbound students. We can only say broadly that there are more outbound students in Asia than inbound," she told University World News. The meeting agreed that it was important to improve data and the level of educational opportunities in Asia and Europe, and to encourage Europe-Asia joint study programmes and summer schools. Some European countries have helped increase inward mobility by offering more courses in English. This is also a strategy being followed in Asia, with countries like Japan and South Korea offering courses in English to attract more international students including those from Europe.

Others, such as France, have set up joint diploma agreements or annexes of French universities and engineering schools in Asian countries. The European Union provides funding for joint degrees to be undertaken at a combination of European and Asian universities, under the Erasmus Mundus programme. However, most initiatives are country-specific, an ASEM document circulated by Denmark's education ministry found. In concluding remarks the conference chairman, Denmark's Minister of Education Troels Lund Poulsen, said the ministers had agreed to strengthen inter-regional cooperation between quality assurance agencies and networks in Asia and Europe with a view to developing common principles across the ASEM education area. However, representatives said that with so many different systems of education to contend with there was a great deal more to be done before the number of European students studying in Asia could match Asians coming the other way. The Bologna process, which helped harmonise higher education in Europe to improve mobility within the continent, started in 1989. It has taken more than 20 years to break down mobility barriers and the process is ongoing. Chaidarun said: "It might take some time before a balance in mobility can take place." The ASEM meeting was attended by participants from more than 40 nations in Europe and Asia, including Australia,

New Zealand and Russia, which joined last year. Apart from countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the 27 members of the European Union, the group also includes China, Japan and South Korea. Malaysia will host the next ASEM education ministers meeting in 2013.

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110513191011657>

**Country Initiatives of the Third ASEM Conference of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3)
9-10, May, 2011
Copenhagen, Denmark**

Topics	Year	Activities	Organized by
1. Quality Assurance and Recognition	2011	1st Expert Seminar on quality assurance and recognition	Germany
	2012	2nd Expert Seminar on quality assurance and recognition	France
	2011-2013	ASEM pilot group of experts on mutual recognition of degrees and study achievements	Austria
2. Engaging Business and Industry in Education	2011	The 2nd ASEM University-Business Forum	Germany
	2012	Stakeholder Meeting on University-Business Forum	Malaysia
3. Balanced Mobility	2011	International ASEM conference on Mobility	Thailand
4. Lifelong Learning (LLL) including VET	April, 2012	ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning	Denmark
	Early 2012	Vocational Education Training Symposium	Germany
	2011-2013	Conference on Lifelong Learning Qualifications Framework	Vietnam
	2011-2013	Workshop on best practices in VET	Austria
	2011-2013	Expert meeting on e-learning	Malaysia
Future ASEMME and AES	2013	The Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education	Malaysia
	2013-2017	Host of the ASEM Education Secretariat	Indonesia
	2015	The Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education	Latvia
	2017	The Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education	The Republic of Korea

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