

## NEWSLETTER November 2009

### LAUNCH OF THE ASEM EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

The ASEM Education Secretariat (AES) officially started its work in September 2009. The rotating AES was established by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in accordance with the conclusions of the ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting in May 2009. In Hanoi, the ASEM members agreed to establish a rotating office in order to ensure effective coordination of existing and coming ASEM education initiatives. The AES will be run for the next four years by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn.

The Director of the AES, Dr. Siegbert Wuttig, will be supported by two DAAD colleagues as well as by staff seconded by the Benelux, China, Indonesia and Vietnam. The international staff will commence their work in the beginning of 2010. Belgium, China and Indonesia have already appointed their delegates.

In order to pursue a good cooperation with education stakeholders in the ASEM countries, the AES has already got in touch with the ASEM Education Hub, the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning, the Bologna Secretariat, the European University Association and the European Commission. Meetings with other stakeholders will follow.

### DAAD WELCOMED A DELEGATION FROM INDONESIA

On October representatives of DAAD welcomed a delegation from Indonesia collecting information for the development of an Indonesian Qualifications Framework and Credit System.

The Delegation consisted of five representatives from the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Indonesian higher education institutions. Details on ERASMUS, Bologna in Germany, ECTS and the European Qualifications framework, were presented and discussed. In addition, one ERASMUS Mundus Course was presented by a representative of the University of Bochum. The NOHA course is an example of good practice for the cooperation between a European consortium and Asian higher education institutions.

### LIFE-LONG LEARNING (LLL) IN VIETNAM

On October 29 and 30, 2009 the Vietnamese Ministry of Education & Training in collaboration with the Danish Ministry organised an ASEM conference on "Increasing Opportunities and Removing Obstacles for Lifelong Learning" in Nha Trang.

The conference brought together representatives from 10 Asian and 10 European countries and from international organisations such as UNESCO, OECD, EU, AIM, ASEAN rectors' conference, ASEF, the ASEM Education Secretariat and from several Vietnamese local institutions.

The participants explored the LLL in a broad sense. Several presentations illustrated the broad definition of LLL and how it varies in time and location. The conference agreed that LLL has become an important element in the policies for education & training all over the world. It was also emphasised that LLL should be considered not only by the Ministries of Education but by all authorities which are involved in organising any kind of training or retraining.

Sharing good LLL practices with each other was the aim of the conference and identified as a future task for all countries involved. This learning can happen within the framework of the same education level but also between the levels and between different economic sectors.

The special ties developed between Vietnam and Denmark in the field of education cooperation were stressed and reinforced.

As a token of appreciation the Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences awarded the title of Dr. Honoris Causa to Arne Carlsen for his long lasting efforts in the field of LLL and in the ASEM-LLL in particular.

Further information can be obtained under:  
<http://www.dpu.dk/site.aspx?p=13762>

### FOURTH EAHEP WORKSHOP IN BANGKOK

From October 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, the EU-Asia Higher Education Platform (EAHEP), has held its fourth workshop "Quality Assurance in Asian and European Higher Education – Opportunities for Inter- and Intra-Regional Cooperation" in Bangkok.

About 40 stakeholders from European and Asian accreditation networks and universities discussed the need and added value of external and internal quality assurance. Via the EU-Asia Higher Education Platform, the European Union promoted round tables, workshops and higher education fairs aiming at enhancing information exchange, dialogue, and cooperation in higher education and research between the two regions. The workshop in Bangkok was the last event of the EAHEP consortium. The EU-funded EAHEP project has been coordinated by the EUA with DAAD and NUFFIC as partners.

Detailed information on the results of the different actions can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.eahep.org/web/>.

### **NEW SKILLS FOR NEW JOBS**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Batt O'Keeffe, Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Ireland and Odile Quintin, Director General for Education and Culture in the European Commission, opened the Thematic Forum on "New Skills For New Jobs – The Role Of Higher Education Institutions and Business Co-operation" in Dublin.

Together with 200 stakeholders from the higher education sector and from the business sector, it was stressed that in order to make citizens successful in a smart society, they need to be supported in developing the necessary knowledge, skills and competences. This should be the central objective of a higher education system and needs a strong communication and partnership between higher education and business.

This forum was part of the University-Business Dialogue initiative launched by the European Commission to improve the cooperation between Higher Education and Business and to provide on European level a platform for a lasting dialogue between the relevant actors. Further information can be obtained under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1680\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1680_en.htm)

### **ASEMUNDUS**

The ASEMUNDUS project has been mentioned in the Hanoi conclusions and is an initiative offered by nine National Structures (Germany as coordinator, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia,

Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands and Poland) that seeks to enhance higher education cooperation and especially university mobility between the EU and Asia. The project is designed for three years and funded by the EU. Via education fair visits and contact seminars in Asia, higher education representatives from Asian ASEM countries will be informed about the ERASMUS Mundus Programme and brought together with existing European Networks to set up long-lasting relationships. In order to establish a permanent and effective information flow within the Asian countries, so-called ERASMUS Mundus promoters from Asian countries will be nominated by ASEMUNDUS. These experts are expected to promote the ERASMUS Mundus programme in their respective countries. Further information can be obtained under:

<http://eu.daad.de/eu/asem/asemundus/11716.htm>  
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### **ASEM SEMINAR ON RECOGNITION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The ASEM Education Secretariat will offer an ASEM Seminar on learning outcomes and credits in Berlin on 15/16 April 2010. Stakeholders of ASEM member countries will be invited to discuss ways of facilitating recognition of academic achievements attained abroad by developing a common understanding of learning outcomes and credits in Asia and Europe.

### **COMING NEXT**

Information on the ASEM Conference on Harmonization of Competency Standard, Bali, November 2009

**Publisher:** ASEM Education Secretariat  
c/o German Academic Exchange Service  
Phone: +49 228 882 467  
Fax : +49 228 882 555  
Mail : [asem-secretariat@daad.de](mailto:asem-secretariat@daad.de)  
<http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org>

Represented Board of Directors:  
President: Prof. Dr. Stefan Hormuth  
Registergericht Bonn  
Registernummer VR 2107  
Editor  
Dr. Siegbert Wuttig, DAAD  
Nina Scholle-Pollmann, DAAD

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