
Dublin Agreed Principles of the Asia Europe Foundation

Purpose, Areas of Interest and Functions

- 1 The purpose of the Foundation is to promote better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, in line with the vision for Asia-Europe cooperation as laid down by the ASEM Leaders at their meeting in Bangkok from 1-2 March 1996.
- 2 In pursuit of this purpose, the Foundation should seek to add value by:
 - (a) giving grants;
 - (b) acting as a clearing house, catalyst and facilitator;
 - (c) collaborating with relevant Asian and European institutions of the ASEM countries;
 - (d) organising a few flagship projects of its own; and
 - (e) implementing any project assigned by future meetings of ASEM Leaders or Ministers and the relevant member of the European Commission.
- 3 The Foundation should avoid duplicating existing and future bilateral and multilateral exchanges between Asia and Europe in the three core areas of its work, as stated in paragraph (1) above, and should seek where possible to build on and promote further development in the activities of existing networks working in these areas.

Participation

- 4 Participation in the Foundation shall be open to ASEM partners having taken part in the first ASEM in Bangkok in March 1996, as well as to any new partner joining the ASEM process.
- 5 Intellectual, cultural and other relevant institutions and non-governmental organisations of the ASEM partners, working in the three core areas of the Foundation's mandate, will be eligible to apply to the Foundation for assistance.

Funding for the Foundation

- 6 The Foundation will establish an operation fund and an endowment fund.
- 7 The Foundation shall be entitled to solicit and accept contributions for either of these funds from member governments and their institutions, as well as from private corporations, foundations or individuals.
- 8 Contributions will be on an voluntary basis. During the fifth year, ASEM governments and the European Commission will review the basis for funding the Foundation in future years.

- 9 Any moneys received in the operating fund in excess of the annual budget of the Foundation shall be transferred to the endowment fund, which shall also receive any contributions specifically earmarked for this purpose.

Legal Capacity

- 10 The Foundation shall be incorporated under Singapore's domestic law as a not-for-profit corporation with tax exempt status. It will have the legal capacity to contract, acquire and dispose of moveable and immovable property, and be party to legal proceedings.

Governance

- 11 The Foundation will be governed by a Board of Governors. Each participant will designate one Governor for a period of three years. The Board will meet at least once a year and more often, if necessary. The Board will, at its first meeting, formally adopt a statement of the Foundation's purposes, objectives and procedures. The Board will likewise draw up its own rules of procedure. It may appoint an Advisory Committee and any other committee as may, in its view, be necessary for the performance of the Foundation's functions.
- 12 The Board of Governors shall elect its own Chairman and Deputy Chairman for a period of one year. If the Chairman is an European, the Deputy Chairman shall be an Asian, and vice versa. The first Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be elected by the Board at its first meeting, on the basis of nominations made at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 15 February 1997.
- 13 The Board of Governors will be responsible for determining the Foundation's policies, programme and priorities. The Board of Governors shall also be responsible for ensuring the efficient use of the Foundation's resources, for the approval of the Foundation's annual report, its proposed budget and workplan for the coming year, and for transmitting annual reports of its finance and activities to participants. In the exercise of their responsibilities, members of the Board will have regard to the interest of the ASEM as a whole.

Staffing

- 14 The staff of the Foundation shall be headed by a Director. The Director will be a citizen of an ASEM country. He shall be appointed by the Board of Governors for a term of three years. The Director will be responsible to the Board for the administration of the Foundation and the implementation of its policies and programmes. The Foundation will be represented by the Director.
- 15 The Director will be assisted by a Deputy Director who will be a citizen of an ASEM country, appointed by the Board for a term of three years.
- 16 If the Director is an Asian, the Deputy Director will be an European, and vice versa. The first Director and Deputy Director shall be appointed by the board of

Governors at their first meeting, on the basis of nominations received at the ASEM Foreign Minister's Meeting on 15 February 1997.

- 17 The Director will recruit such professional, secretariat and other staff as are from time to time considered necessary for carrying out the policies and programmes of the Foundation. The Director will also seek the secondment of such staff where appropriate.

Accounts

- 18 The accounts of the Foundation shall be maintained according to normal principles of good practice, and shall be audited by an external auditor appointed by the Board whose reports shall be submitted to the Board.

19 December 1996