

Proposal to establish a solid framework for and involve all ASEM partner countries in

the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning

ASEM EMM2, Hanoi 13-16 May, 2009.

Adapted version March 2010

Background

The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub) was established as the result of a preparatory work for ASEM IV Heads of State Summit in Copenhagen in 2002. Three working groups were set up to explore the possibilities for a stronger cooperation between Asia and Europe in the field of lifelong learning. The focus was initially placed on how lifelong learning has developed in Asia and Europe and how different concepts and policies of lifelong learning have helped governments to respond to changing demands of the knowledge economy as well as engaged the most vulnerable groups of society to ensure the well-being of individuals. As a proposal of the Danish government, the ASEM LLL Hub with the first four research networks was welcomed at ASEM V in 2004 in Hanoi and officially launched at an opening conference in Copenhagen, May 2005. Since then the ASEM LLL Hub has received further support from partner country governments and their universities. Noticeably, LLL was one of the themes discussed at the first ASEM Education Minister Meeting in Berlin, May 2008 and the ASEM LLL Hub was regarded as an innovative cooperation between Asia and Europe, which was emphasised in point 8 of the Chair's conclusion of the ministerial meeting <http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org/en/12205/>

Further, the ASEM LLL Hub exhibited its activities at the ASEM VII in October 2008 in Beijing and ASEM EMM2 in Hanoi in May 2009.

Organisation and activities

The ASEM LLL Hub provides a platform for dialogue between research, practice and policy, between researchers, practitioners and policy-makers in the field of lifelong learning. It provides opportunities for collaboration between Asian and European countries with regard to the intersection between research-informed educational practices and reforms, evidence-based educational research and evidence-based educational policy making. In parallel with five active research networks and their annual research conference, it is organised with a hub of management representatives from at present 36 universities in 25 countries and their annual meeting, and with an Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from national ministries and international organisations from at present 11 countries, including Austria, Cambodia, China, Denmark, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Philippines, South Korea, Portugal, Thailand.



The chairmanship of the Advisory Board is currently held by the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture, and the chairmanship of the ASEM LLL Hub and its secretariat is currently held by the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University.

At annual meetings, the research coordinators present the research outcomes and research-based policy-recommendations of the year to the management and ministry representatives and get feed-back as well as suggestions for future research questions of importance for the governments.

The five research networks

Research Network 1: Development of ICT skills, e-learning and the culture of e-learning in

Lifelong Learning. Coordinated by professor Bowon Kim, Korea National Open University, Korea.

Research Network 2: Competence Development as Workplace Learning.

Coordinated by Professor Lynne Chisholm, the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Research Network 3: Professionalisation of Lifelong Learning with a special emphasis on Teacher

Training. Coordinated by Professor Ekkehard Nuisl von Rein, the German Institute for Adult Education and Duisburg/Essen University, Germany.

Research Network 4: National strategies of Lifelong Learning with regard to citizens' motivation and barriers against continuing education and training.

Coordinated by Dr. Xianjin Dou, the National Centre for Education Development Research, Ministry of Education, China.

Research Network 5: ASEM LLL Core Competences.

Coordinated by Professor Han Soonghee, Seoul National University, Korea.

The ASEM LLL Hub aims

- to establish a network of leading universities and research institutes that can stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the field of LLL and sustainable human resource development.
- to establish a network that can initiate bilateral and multilateral comparative study projects in Asia and Europe.
- to establish a network to increase exchanges of students and academics in the field of LLL.
- to establish an advisory mechanism between the University network and an Asian-European open meeting of political and institutional stakeholders working with LLL, so the work of the Hub can be an important source for sustainable human resource development and effective strategies in the field of LLL in Asia and Europe.

- to inform the public and communicate with academic community and policy makers about comparative research results, good practices and research-based policy recommendations in cooperation and collaboration between Asia and Europe.

Through research network meetings, international conferences, publications and website developments the ASEM LLL Hub communicates its activities and disseminates research findings to interested partners and stakeholders. The events highlighting some of the ASEM LLL Hub achievements include:

- The first ASEM LLL conference hosted by the Danish University of Education in Copenhagen, May 2005, opened by the Danish Minister of Education
- The second ASEM LLL Conference hosted by the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok May 2006, opened by the Thai Deputy Prime Minister
- The third ASEM LLL Conference hosted by the Malaysia National University in Kuala Lumpur, November 2007, opened by the Malaysian Vice Minister of Education
- The fourth ASEM LLL Conference hosted by the Peking University in Beijing, November 2008, opened by the Chinese Vice Minister of Education.
- The ASEM LLL conference 'eLearning and Workplace Learning' hosted by Thai Cyber University, Commission for Higher Education in Bangkok July 2009, opened by the Thai Deputy Prime Minister, Thai Minister of Labour and Thai Minister of Education
- The ASEM LLL conference 'Increasing Opportunities and Removing Obstacles for Lifelong Learning', hosted by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education in October 2009, opened by the Vietnamese Vice Minister of education and Vice Minister of Labour.

Objectives of this proposal for 2010-2012

- To follow the invitation from the EMM1 to expand the existing ASEM LLL cooperation among 25 countries to involve all 43 ASEM countries, the EU-Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.
- To equally expand the advisory board to include representatives at government level from all ASEM partner countries
- To increase the number of research projects according to policy demands from governments and initiatives from universities.
- To strengthen the cooperation between the advisory board and research networks by creating more effective communication and dialogue between researchers and policy makers and to present research-based policy recommendations in the field of lifelong learning and sustainable human resource development in the light of the global economical crisis.

Activity plan

- To organise a major conference on LLL in 2010 in a European country with estimated 500 participants, being a showcase of successful ASEM cooperation to the world. The conference will build on policy-

recommendations from the five research networks to governments, that will be presented and discussed by ministers, leaders of social partners and industry.

- To organise a major ASEM Conference on LLL and sustainable human resource development in 2012 in an Asian country.
- To widen the function of the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning as a platform for student and researcher mobility in the field of lifelong learning, also by establishing a web-based collegium for researchers
- To increase visibility through publications and comparative research activities within the topics of the five research networks. This visibility will also support Asia-Europe higher education cooperation by highlighting new research results to the benefit of education policy cooperation
- To increase sustainability of the organisation of the LLL-Hub by strengthening the role of its secretariat
- To establish a sizeable budget for the 2010-2012 3 year-period, based on ASEM contribution and country contributions, and to develop a set of evaluation criteria to review the LLL Hub activities yearly and after the 3 year funding period.

The ministries represented in the advisory board have pointed out the following five research questions, that serve as the basis for the Hub research work in the coming years:

1. Common understanding on concepts of Lifelong Learning (LLL)
 - comparative analysis on the diversity of LLL frameworks and policy levers designed to achieve LLL goals would give added value
2. Role of Initial Vocational Education and Training (IVET) and Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET) in LLL: pathways, e-learning, on-the-job learning.
3. Horizontal building-blocks of LLL creating systematic changes and supporting the realisation of LLL: LLL Guidance, Recognition of non-formal and informal learning (RNFIL), workplace learning
4. Making learning more attractive with special regard to those who are not involved with learning/education: motivating learners, attractive courses (relevance, flexibility, individual needs)
5. ICT, e-learning: quality and certification

The five research networks have planned to carry out their comparative research studies in relation to these questions as follows:

Network 1: “Developing ICT Skills, e-learning and the culture of e-Learning in Lifelong Learning”, coordinated by Professor Bowon Kim, Korea National Open University, Korea.

The network plans the forthcoming activities at three steps with an aim to present the first results in the conference in 2010:

- Preparing a policy paper (White Paper) on the role of e-learning in the field of lifelong learning to highlight the significant role and the relevance of e-learning in lifelong learning.
- Creating a research framework for the networking and developing a shared understanding of the research area.

- Collecting descriptions from the different network partners on specific case studies on the uses of ICT or e-learning in lifelong learning activities. This will also be a way of developing a shared understanding in the network.
- Network meeting(s) in Thailand and/or Portugal.

Network 2: “Competence Development as Workplace Learning”, coordinated by Professor Lynne Chisholm, Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark.

- An Asian survey –a cross-national survey on workplace learning.
- A joint publication on a comparative research project “Compulsory/voluntarily participation in Work Place Learning”, highlighting the differences between the 2 continents, considering context, reasons, understanding of concepts, conditions, motivations.
- Network meetings.

Network 3: “Professionalisation of Lifelong Learning with a special emphasis on teacher training”, coordinated by Professor Ekkehard Nuissl, Duisburg/Essen University, Germany.

- Future need of competencies (Delphi): questionnaire survey is underway
- Analysis of effects of qualification-measures
- Strategies of Professionalisation
- Conference and networks meetings

Network 4: “National Strategies of Lifelong Learning with regard to citizens motivation and barriers against continuing education and training” coordinated by Professor Xianjin Dou, the National Centre for Education Research Development, Ministry of Education, P.R.China.

The network has identified four project proposals:

- Title: Emerging markets for Lifelong Learning.
- Title: Towards National Systems of LLL, National Strategies, Financing and Qualification of Staff.
- Title: The Patterns and trends of Participation in LLL among Different Groups.
- Title: Mapping National Strategies of Lifelong Learning (from pre-school to adult education and learning).

Network 5: “ASEM Core Competences”, coordinated by Professor Soonghee Han, Seoul National University, Korea.

- a network meeting at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark to to build up a shared understanding of the discourse of core competence, consolidate research profile of this new network, and identify steps for future research and timeline for presenting the results.
- The network research results will be presented at the ASEM LLL Hub conference in 2010, which will include comprehensive reports of the work on theoretical and empirical research of human competences
- Network meetings and joint publications

Expected outcomes by 2012

- sustainable and strong research networks among universities in all ASEM member countries – for a more comprehensive and sustainable partnership of both regions

- production of new knowledge and transfer of this knowledge to the benefit of educational development in member countries in the form of a structured dialogue and regular exchange of experiences
- partnership between research, practise and policy, improving conditions for evidence-based educational reform to meet economical and social challenges
- increased mobility of faculty and students in a prioritized area for Asia and Europe
- visibility of successful Asia-Europe cooperation by providing more and better information about the Hub research and policy recommendation activities
- activities in the form of annual dialogue platforms, research network meetings, bigger international conferences, press-conferences, taking the result of activities to the policy-level.

Suggested three year funding principles 2010-2012

- 3 year contribution from ASEF
- 3 year contributions from ASEM countries directly to ASEM LLL Hub. This can happen in the form of voluntary contributions, or in the form of a floor contribution from each member country followed by a graduated on-top contribution.
- University contributions for hosting events
- Member universities paying parts of the researchers' work hours

ASEM LLL Hub Budget Proposal 2010-2012 (in euros)					
Category	Estimated Cost 2010	Estimated Cost 2011	Estimated Cost 2012	Estimated Subtotal	Notes
ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL	486.000	366.000	366.000	€ 1.218.000	
Research activities by 5 networks					
Comparative studies	105.000	105.000	105.000	€ 315.000	research projects by each network, including Asia-Europe surveys, theoretical frameworks, compiling state-of-the-art anthology
Research Costs Total				€ 315.000	
Publications					
Research result publications	40.000	40.000	40.000	€ 120.000	Conference books, thematic network books, CD-ROM, DVD of research research papers, journals, editing costs
Publication Costs Total				€ 120.000,00	
Conferences and Seminars					
Travel subsidies for researchers, Hub members, advisory boards	80.000	80.000	80.000	€ 240.000	Partially subsidies
Local costs	60.000	60.000	60.000	€ 180.000	venues, lodging, food and other logistics
World conference 2010	100.000	0	0	€ 100.000	
Conferences Costs Subtotal				€ 520.000,00	
Website Development and Public Relations					



Asia-Europe Meeting
ASEM Education and Research Hub
for Lifelong Learning



ASIA-EUROPE
FOUNDATION

Website development and maintenance	30.000	30.000	30.000	€ 90.000	brochures, publicity with media, branded materials to increase the visibility of the ASEM LLL Hub activities
Promotional materials	5.000	5.000	5.000	€ 15.000	
Website Development and Public Relations Costs Total				€ 105.000,00	
Secretariat costs					
Policy and strategy development	20.000	0	0	€ 20.000,00	Policy and strategy to orient the development of the ASEM LLL Hub for the period of 2010-2012 in line with the ASEM process
Human resources	40.000	40.000	40.000	€ 120.000,00	
Overheads costs	6.000	6.000	6.000	€ 18.000,00	office rent, postage, communication & admin. Costs, etc
Secretariat costs				€ 158.000,00	
Grand Total				€ 1.218.000	

ASEMLLL120310



Appendix 1: ASEM LLL Hub partner universities as of March 2010.

1. University of Innsbruck, Austria;
2. Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei;
3. Phnom Penh International University, Cambodia
4. National Center for Education Development and Research, China;
5. Renmin University of China, China;
6. Peking University, China;
7. Beijing Normal University, China;
8. Youth University for Political Sciences, China
9. University of Brno - Masaryk, Czech Republic;
10. The Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark;
11. The Open University of Japan, Japan
12. University of Helsinki, Finland;
13. Duisburg/Essen University, Germany;
14. University of Debrecen, Hungary;
15. Hungarian National Adult Education Institute, Hungary;
16. Adalas University, Indonesia;
17. University of Bengkulu, Indonesia;
18. University of Latvia, Latvia;
19. Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania;
20. Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania;
21. University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia;
22. University of Groningen, The Netherlands;
23. Universidade Aberta, Portugal;
24. Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines;
25. Philippine Normal University, The Philippines;
26. University of West Timisoara, Rumania;
27. National Institute of Education, Singapore;
28. Korea National Open University, South Korea;
29. Seoul National University, South Korea;
30. Graduate School of Ajou University, South Korea
31. University of Deusto, Spain;
32. University of Gothenburg, Sweden;
33. Chulalongkorn University, Thailand;
34. Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand
35. Hanoi University of Education, Vietnam;
36. University of London, UK.

The partnerships will be expanded in the coming years to include more leading universities from all 43 ASEM countries. For updated list please see www.dpu.dk/asem