



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

**ASEM Conference**  
**Lifelong Learning: e-Learning and Workplace Learning**  
**20-22 July 2009, Bangkok, Thailand**

### ASEM Conference 20-21 July

The two-day ASEM conference with special focus on e-learning and workplace learning was opened by the Thai Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Korbsak Sabhavasu, followed by welcoming remarks from the Thai Education and Labour Ministers. The event brought together 350 professors and young academics, adult educators and government officials from a wide variety of relevant organisations in Thailand and 50 representatives and researchers from a further 20 ASEM member countries.



Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Korbsak Sabhavasu

Sponsored by the Thai Ministries of Education and Labour, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Asia-Europe Foundation the conference was organised by Thai Cyber University, the Thai Commission on Higher Education and the ASEM LLL Hub.

The conference provided a forum for sharing research findings, regional experiences and developments in legislative, financial and organisational frameworks for promoting and supporting e-learning and work place learning in the two regions' countries.

16 presentations at the conference addressed trends and issues with respect to the ways in which existing infrastructures in diverse socio-cultural and geopolitical contexts may hinder or facilitate the development of e-learning and workplace learning.

Scholars from the Workplace Learning Network focused on contextualising and recontextualising different forms of knowledge as people move between different sites of learning and practice (UK), the ways in which learning takes place in different phases of working life (Czech Republic) and facilitating organisational innovation through human resource practices (PR China). Those from the eASEM Network paid attention to new cooperation models for e-learning (Estonia, Japan, Korea); the contribution of social networks to e-learning; national and global sharing of e-learning resources (Japan, Portugal); quality assurance and standards in e-learning (Germany, Japan); and cultural factors in e-learning in Asia and Europe (Korea).

The conference also contributed to strengthening links between research and policy making in the Asian region, which feed into future strategies for enhancing the implementation of lifelong learning initiatives with respect to their e-learning and workplace learning dimensions.

Watch the videos and see the full conference proceedings on  
<http://www.dpu.dk/ASEMLLLBangkok2009>



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### [Advisory Board Information-Sharing Meeting, 21 July](#)

In order to engage more Asian partners, representatives of the Ministries of Education and Labour responsible for national LLL strategies in Asian ASEM countries were invited to an information meeting about joining the Advisory Board of the ASEM LLL Hub. 11 senior ministerial representatives from 9 countries and 5 representatives from international organisations exchanged their understandings of LLL concepts and national policies. The discussion also focused on national representation at the Advisory Board and emphasised the coordination between ministries and concerned institutions within each country.

The participants expressed their interest in and support to the expansion of the ASEM LLL Hub:

- to include more ASEM countries,
- to intensify research activities according to policy challenges,
- to create more comprehensive and sustainable partnerships.

in order to exchange and utilise existing knowledge in the field, produce new knowledge and transfer this knowledge to education policy development in member countries.



[Advisory Board Information-Sharing Meeting, 21 July, Bangkok, Thailand.](#)



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The meeting welcomed Thailand's willingness to take up the role of Co-chair of the Advisory Board in order to further facilitate the expanding partnership in the field of LLL between ASEM countries, especially Asian members.

By and large, the meeting created ground for achieving the objectives of raising awareness, getting to know each other, identifying mutual interests and key issues of LLL, building trust for networking and learning partnership, and reinforcing commitment among the Advisory Board members.

Read more about the Advisory Board on <http://www.dpu.dk/ASEMLLLAdvisoryBoard>





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### Research Network Meetings, 22 July



Research Network 1 (e-ASEM): Development of ICT, e-learning and the culture of e-learning in lifelong learning.

to highlight the significance and the relevance of e-learning in lifelong learning.

This 6-chapter book will consist of comparative studies of concepts, characteristics, status and government regulations of e-learning in the period between 2005 and 2009. The book focuses on the main question “how does e-learning contribute to lifelong learning” and aims to create a reference framework for policy development at national and regional level.



The network members also agreed on future activities, including research on visual literacy, cross-cultural analysis of e-learning, developing and sharing e-contents, and intensifying cooperation and communication with other networks under the ASEM LLL Hub, especially RN2 on Workplace Learning.



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### Research Network Meetings, 22 July



Research Network 2: Competence Development as Workplace Learning

Research Network 2 (RN2) on Workplace Learning had a successful meeting, with participants from 11 countries (Austria, PR China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Thailand, UK), 4 further countries interested to join the network (Japan, Korea, Philippines and Vietnam) and representatives of the Asia-Europe Foundation.

Following two working paper contributions from Lithuania (on managerial competence formation) and Hungary (national review of workplace learning research), the meeting turned its

attention to detailed planning of the Asia-Europe workplace learning survey to take place in 2009-10. This cross-national survey focuses on

- the interrelations between employees' attitudes and behaviours with their perceptions and experiences of workplace-based learning as a compulsory or a voluntary activity;
- how employees in different countries and from diverse cultures perceive these issues;
- how the different ways in which labour markets and employing organisations in Asian and European countries affect employees' and employers' approaches to workplace learning provision and participation.

The network expects to present the initial findings at the next ASEM LLL Hub Conference, followed by publication of the national and comparative results and analysis in order to highlight similarities and differences between the two world regions in cultural, economic and social context.

This first study should provide the basis for designing a larger-scale comparative study from 2011. The overall aim is to contribute to the empirical and theoretical decoding of working places as lifelong learning spaces, in order to gain a fuller understanding of what, how, why and with what benefits for whom do which people learn in working environments and in particular, how workplace learning can be a key context for competence development.

Read more about the network and its publications on <http://www.dpu.dk/ASEMWorkplaceLearning>







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Mr. Phaitoon Kaeothon, Thai Minister of Labour (centre)



Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Thai Minister of Education (in blue shirt)



Mr Arne Carlsen, Chairman of the ASEM LLL Hub



Ministerial Representatives at the Conference