The Inaugural Assembly/First ASEM Expert Working Group Meeting on Interregional Credit Transfer Mechanisms and Learning Outcome Systems

Consensus

Beijing, P. R. China

March 24–25, 2016

Referring to Paragraph 18 and Paragraph 21 of the Conclusions by the Chair of the Fourth and Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting of the Ministers for Education held respectively on 13-14 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and 27-28 April 2015 in Riga, Latvia, Ministers supported to establish an expert working group discussing interregional credit transfer mechanisms and learning outcome systems among ASEM member countries. Recommended by the ASEM Education Secretariat, the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China agreed to coordinate this expert working group, and entrusted it to China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC). The First Meeting (Inaugural Assembly) of the Expert Working Group was held in Beijing, China, on 24–25 March, 2016.

The First Expert Working Group meeting was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, China, Estonia, Indonesia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom, as well as ASEAN University Network, and was chaired by China. Belgium (Flemish Community), Portugal, Romania, and the ASEM Education Secretariat were unable to attend.

The Expert Working Group thanked the ASEM Education Secretariat for previous work done in this area, including compiling and updating the Compendium of Interregional Credit Transfer Mechanism and Learning Outcome System.

The meeting proceeded in a congenial and active atmosphere, with significant inputs from members of the group. Common understandings were reached as follows:

1. It is of great importance, necessity and urgency to push forward dialogues and cooperation in credit transfer and learning outcomes under the framework of ASEMME;

2. In view of diversities in history, culture and education of ASEM member countries, the Expert Working Group considered it an arduous task to develop and implement a practical and feasible interregional credit transfer mechanism and learning outcomes system;

3. The ASEM member countries shall deepen dialogue, enhance understanding,
strengthen mutual trust and promote win-win cooperation in credit transfer and learning outcomes;

4. The ASEM member countries shall strengthen collaborative/joint studies on credit transfer and learning outcomes;

5. The Expert Working Group shall work collaboratively with the Working Group for Implementing the ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration, e.g. sharing information and displaying activities of the Expert Working Group on Asian National Information Centres Coordinating Website (ANICCW);

6. The Expert Working Group shall be open in the ASEM region to encourage wider participation;

7. The Expert Working Group shall reinforce the coherence of its work with tools already existing in the ASEM region and activities of regional and international organizations such as UNESCO, INQAAHE, APQN and ENQA.

The meeting yielded the following results:

1. The Expert Working Group was officially established;

2. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Working Group was approved;

3. The Secretariat of the Expert Working Group was set up in China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center;

4. The following plans were formulated:

   ➢ To undertake collaborative research led by China, supported by experts from Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Germany, Estonia, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Thailand, and the UK; this initiative welcomes contributions from other ASEM member countries on clearly-defined topics concerning credit transfer and learning outcomes.
   ➢ To organize an international seminar towards the end of 2016, in collaboration with regional and international organizations to be held in China on the platform of Cross-border Quality Assurance Network (CBQAN);
   ➢ To explore the feasibility of an “ASEM Study/Courses Portal” on Credit Transfer and Learning Outcomes to promote student mobility.

The Expert Working Group expressed appreciation to Belgium for holding the second meeting in Belgium in 2017.

25 March, 2016 Beijing