

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE / LOCATION

14 October 2024

CONTACT

Asia-Europe Foundation
ASEF Communications Department
Info@asef.org

WEBSITE

www.asef.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

Asia-Europe Foundation - ASEF
Asia-Europe Meeting - ASEM

LinkedIn

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

X

@aseforg
@asiaeuropemtg

OFFICIAL HASHTAGS

#ASEF
#ASEM

IMAGES

[Flickr.com/asia-europe_foundation](https://www.flickr.com/photos/asia-europe_foundation/)

ASEF WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) welcomes the arrival of Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA as the new Executive Director on 14 October 2024. This marks a significant milestone as Ambassador STOCZYŃSKA becomes ASEF's first female Executive Director and its first Executive Director from Poland.

ASEF is also pleased to welcome Mr ZHANG Lei from China as the new Deputy Executive Director, who took up post on 30 September 2024.

Executive Director, Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA

Ambassador STOCZYŃSKA has a distinguished career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Prior to her appointment at ASEF, she was Ambassador of Poland to Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and ASEAN (2018 to 2024). She also previously served as Ambassador of Poland to New Zealand (2010 to 2014). At the Ministry, her portfolios included the Asia Pacific region, as well as relations with the European Union. She brings to ASEF invaluable international experience, proven managerial skills and broad networks of contacts.

Ambassador STOCZYŃSKA has pledged to “navigate the organisation through these opportunity-rich yet uncertain times, steering it in a respectful, fair and sustainable manner.” She strongly supports ASEF's 3-year strategic plan (2023-2026) and sees great potential in enhanced intellectual exchange, education and technological cooperation. She also sees the importance of cultural and people-to-people exchange, with special attention to be given to the younger generation, adaptation to the fast-paced digital environment, and closer collaboration with creative industries.

Deputy Executive Director, Mr ZHANG Lei

Mr ZHANG has served in different departments of the Chinese Foreign Ministry and has extensive experience in multilateral affairs. Prior to his appointment at ASEF, he was Counsellor at the Department of International Economic Affairs. Mr ZHANG has also been posted to several overseas missions, including

the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations in New York, as well as the Chinese Embassies in Bangladesh, New Zealand, and Trinidad and Tobago. Mr ZHANG graduated from the Beijing Foreign Studies University and holds a Master's degree in Diplomacy and International Strategy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

.

About the Asia-Europe Foundation

MORE INFORMATION

www.asef.org

ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the 7 thematic areas of Culture, Education, Governance, Economy, Public Health, Media and Sustainable Development.

WHO

ASEF was established by the Foreign Ministers of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) - an intergovernmental process comprising 51 partner countries and two partner international organisations in Asia and Europe. ASEF is the sole permanent institution of ASEM.

WHERE

ASEF is based in Singapore, but its activities expand to all ASEM Partner countries.¹

WHEN

ASEF was established on 15 February 1997.

WHY

ASEF's Mission is to complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process through providing opportunities for Asians and Europeans to exchange ideas and collaborate, and to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges.

About the Asia-Europe Meeting

MORE INFORMATION

www.ASEMinfoboard.org

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe.

ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural and educational issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. Its foremost event, the ASEM Summit, is a biennial meeting between the Heads of State and Government, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary General of ASEAN. In addition, ASEM Ministers and Senior Officials also meet in their respective sectoral dialogues.

The initial ASEM Partnership in 1996 consisted of 15 EU Member States, seven ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. Today, ASEM comprises 53 Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Through its informal process based on equal partnership and enhancing mutual understanding, ASEM facilitates and stimulates progress, but does not seek to duplicate bilateral and other multilateral relationships between Asia and Europe.

.

¹ Currently the 53 ASEM partners are: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union. Check out the [ASEM Infoboard Website](http://www.ASEMinfoboard.org) for detailed information.