

**The Governing Mayor of Berlin
Senate Chancellery**

Concept Paper

Name of the Initiative:

“ASEM Goes Local: Challenges and Solutions”

2nd ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM-MGM)

in Berlin

from 18 to 19 October 2012

1. Background

Under the heading of “ASEM Goes Local: Challenges and Solutions,” the Governor of Jakarta, Dr. Fauzi Bowo, initiated a dialogue on the municipal level between governors and mayors of cities in the ASEM countries in Europe and Asia and hosted the 1st ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors (ASEM-MGM) in Jakarta from 28 to 29 October 2010.

At this meeting, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Mr. Klaus Wowereit, declared his willingness to host the 2nd ASEM-MGM in Berlin in 2012. The initiative was proposed to the ASEM Senior Officials at the ASEM SOM on Tokyo October 28, 2011 by the ASEM contact point for Germany.

In the age of globalization and urbanization, metropolises worldwide are experiencing breathtaking growth and fundamental structural change – economically, demographically, and culturally. Cities are facing enormous shared challenges and must find intelligent ways to combine quality of life with economic growth, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. As a result, an exchange of experiences between cities and the chance to learn from each other can benefit all European and Asian cities.

2. Objectives of the initiative

In their joint declaration, the participants in the 1st ASEM-MGM agreed to the following principles:

- Underline the importance of the ASEM Governors and Mayors Meeting in providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asian and European partners on the local level
- Continue exchanging information, ideas, and experiences, such as innovative good policy practices, through the dialogue forum of the ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors
- Collaborate in a cooperative, equitable, and open spirit to link our network to other city networks from Asia and Europe in order to increase knowledge on how to respond to urban challenges and recognize potential synergies

- Recognize that the 1st ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors in Jakarta presents itself as a kick-off for future meetings at two-year intervals, alternating between Asian and European cities as hosts
- Endorse initiatives and recommendations in order to increase knowledge on how to respond to urban challenges and in order to exploit potential synergies and also to improve and ensure the continuity of the meeting
- Endorse the principle of encouraging productive dialogue to establish partnership compacts between the spheres of national, regional, and local government in the interest of positive collaboration for the benefit of our citizens

3. Themes and topics to be addressed

The 2nd ASEM-MGM in Berlin in 2012 will focus on the core themes agreed on in the joint declaration in Jakarta:

1. Urbanization, migration, and social inclusion
2. Sustainability and climate change
3. Good local governance

The suggested specific issues to be discussed at the 2nd ASEM-MGM in Berlin in 2012 are:

- Strategies to adapt to climate change
- Tourism and culture
- Development of green spaces and open spaces that takes climate issues and social justice into consideration
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Mobility, e-mobility, traffic and transportation management, environmental zones
- Waste management
- Health care and disaster prevention
- New identities and new uses for municipal properties for future-oriented industries
- City management and civic participation

4. Date and venue

18 to 19 October 2012, Berlin, Germany

5. Target participation

The target group includes the governors and mayors of the capital cities of all 48 ASEM member countries, as well as relevant international city networks (e.g., OECD, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Metropolis, UCLG, Eurocities). With regards to Australia and Myanmar, Germany is going to follow the example set by Jakarta to invite the Mayors of Sydney and Yangon.

6. Preliminary program

Wednesday, October 17, 2012:

Arrival / Get-together

Thursday, October 18, 2012:

Opening

Keynote speeches

Plenary session on the core themes of

1. Urbanization, migration and social inclusion

2. Sustainability and climate change

On-site visits

Dinner

Friday, October 19, 2012:

Plenary session on the core theme of

3. Good local governance

On-site visits

Discussion and adoption of the joint declaration

Dinner

7. Language

English

8. Expenses

Participants are expected to pay their own airfares resp. travel costs to Berlin.

The host city Berlin will cover the organizational costs (including local transport) and accommodation for the governor/mayor plus two members of delegation for three nights.

In case that the governor/mayor cannot participate in person, the host city Berlin will only cover the organizational costs and accommodation (for three nights) for the head of delegation. On special request, however, the city of Berlin will decide on a case-to-case basis whether it can cover the costs for more than one representative.

All expenses for further members of the delegation, as well as all additional costs, must be covered by the participants.

9. Sponsor

Germany (city of Berlin)

10. Organizer

Germany (city of Berlin)

11. Co-Organizer

ASEM delegations are going to be invited to support Germany/ Berlin in organizing the meeting. Special support will be needed in chairing sessions as every session will be chaired by a representative of an Asian and a European ASEAN member jointly.