



## Summary

of the

### **2nd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors “ASEM Goes Local – Strategies for Change” on 18 and 19 October 2012 in Berlin**

1. The 2nd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors (ASEM-MGM), under the heading of “ASEM Goes Local: Challenges and Solutions,” was held in Berlin, Germany, from 18 to 19 October 2012. The forum, hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin and the Senate Chancellery, was attended by governors, mayors, and government officials from 19 ASEM capital cities: Athens (Greece), Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (P.R. China), Bucharest (Romania), Brussels (Belgium), Budapest (Hungary), Dublin (Ireland), Helsinki (Finland), Jakarta (Indonesia), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Paris (France), Singapore, Sofia (Bulgaria), Tallinn (Estonia), Tokyo (Japan), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Vientiane (Laos), and Yangon (Myanmar). Furthermore, two international organizations – OECD and UCLG-ASPAC – participated in the meeting as observers. The List of Participants in the 2nd ASEM-MGM is attached as Annex 1.
2. The meeting aimed at continuing the dialogue started with the 1st ASEM-MGM in Jakarta in 2010. Consequently, the 2nd ASEM-MGM in Berlin focused on the three core themes of the joint declaration agreed in Jakarta. During the 2nd ASEM-MGM, the participants discussed strategies and solutions that promote future-oriented management of major cities and exchanged information on “best practices” in innovative urban policy in three plenary sessions focused on the following topics:
  - How do we respond to climate change? Strategies for mitigation and adaptation
  - How do we want to live together tomorrow? Approaches to dealing with urbanization, migration and, social integration
  - How do we want to govern? Good governance on the local level
3. On 18 October 2012, Governing Mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit opened the 2nd ASEM-MGM together with Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle; Dr. Fauzi Bowo, the former Governor of Jakarta, who initiated and hosted the 1st ASEM-MGM in Jakarta in 2010; and M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, the Governor of Bangkok.

The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, welcomed all participants and gave an especially warm welcome to Dr. Fauzi Bowo, former Governor of Jakarta – one of Berlin’s partner cities. Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Bowo, ASEM now also stands for regular dialogue

between political leaders from major cities in Europe and Asia. The cities in Europe and Asia are facing enormous and complex challenges. What governors and mayors have in common is that they have learned that good ideas, energy, and the courage to make changes can achieve a lot. The 2nd ASEM-MGM in Berlin offered the opportunity to investigate examples from Berlin and hear about experiences on the practical level from the heads of big cities in Europe and Asia. These examples show that there are encouraging solutions for climate-friendly mobility, there are urban policies that strengthen social cohesion in very diverse cities that attract many immigrants, and there are methods that help city administrations turn residents into active contributors – thus making citizens partners of a modern urban administration. The overarching question is: how do we want to live together in the 21st century? In conclusion, Mr. Klaus Wowereit expressed his hope that the 2nd ASEM-MGM will send out a clear signal: that governors and mayors are working on a new model in the cities of Asia and Europe, a model that is guided by high quality of life for the urban population. And that heads of cities in Europe and Asia don't play economic growth off against social cohesion or ecological sustainability, but think of all three aspects and link them politically. Mr. Wowereit expressed his wish that the meeting will help to make progress in cities in Europe and Asia and will also enrich the ASEM dialogue on the national level.

In his own speech, Federal Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle said that a global shift is taking place. Asia is a new emerging powerhouse and a driver of the global economy, as well as a new political player tackling global challenges. Europe, as a highly urbanized region, has accumulated great experience and expertise in shaping urban processes. In a globalized world, transnational relations can no longer be limited to nation-states. Cities are at the very heart of the fundamental structural changes our world is experiencing. Cooperation between major urban centers in Europe and Asia adds an invaluable layer to finding solutions to global problems, such as climate change, and offers the opportunity for more cooperation between Asia and Europe, both economic and political. Minister Westerwelle expressed his appreciation to former Governor of Jakarta, Dr. Fauzi Bowo, for initiating the "ASEM goes local" dialogue in 2010 and wished the participants of the 2nd ASEM-MGM in Berlin in 2012 fruitful discussions and every success.

4. The first plenary session focused on the theme "How do we respond to climate change? Strategies for mitigation and adaptation" and was chaired by Mr. Klaus Wowereit, Governing Mayor of Berlin. Speakers were Mr. Yang Zhiqiang, Deputy Secretary-General of Beijing Municipal Government; Dr. Tamás Szentes, Deputy Mayor of Budapest; Mr. Sutanto Soedhodho, Deputy Governor of Jakarta; and Mr. Nyamaa Bataa, First Vice Mayor for Finance and Economy of the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar. With their presentations, the cities underlined the great importance of using comprehensive strategies and measures to respond to climate change. Approaches focus on energy saving in industry, residential buildings, and transport, as well as on increasing the use of renewable energy. Measures include the definition of energy standards. For instance, new buildings in Berlin have to be planned and constructed so that their primary energy needs not only meet the regulations on energy saving, but are significantly lower; the energy-efficient renovation of public and residential buildings; and the use of clean energy. Beijing has instituted measures to replace coal with natural gas and electricity for heating and cooling; promotes solar energy by providing roofs of public buildings for the installation of solar collectors; and promotes public transportation systems. In addition, Jakarta puts a special focus on maintaining and extending open green space in the city to help reduce air pollution and to promote a healthy city climate, as well as on flood control infrastructure development. Berlin also emphasizes electromobility. In early April 2012, Berlin's application to become a national showcase for electromobility proved successful. Examples of over 70 entirely different showcase projects include: electric car-sharing for all, corporate fleets in companies and public authorities, and e-mobility locations where specialists and the general public can learn about and test e-mobility themselves. During the meeting, the excursion in the afternoon of 18 October 2012 to the former Tempelhof airport offered the chance to learn more about Berlin's electromobility strategy.

5. The second plenary session under the heading “How do we want to live together tomorrow? Approaches to dealing with urbanization, migration, and social integration” was chaired by Mr. Sutanto Soehodho, Deputy Governor of Jakarta. In their presentations, Ms. Nives Cesar, City Councillor of Ljubljana; Mr. Taavi Aas, Vice-Mayor of Tallinn; Mr. Toshiyuki Akiyama, Vice Governor of Tokyo; and Mr. Keophilavanh Aphaylath, Vice Governor of Vientiane highlighted the importance of comprehensive approaches – ensuring housing, accessibility, sustainable transport, urban public space, and culture and the arts, as well as public safety – as a prerequisite to ensuring quality of life and attractiveness in cities. Mr. Taavi Aas explained that Tallinn will introduce the concept of Free Public Transport by 2013. With this, Tallinn aims to meet the social need to provide mobility to low-income residents, as well as to make the city greener and more attractive as a residential area, thus increasing income tax. Mr. Keophilavanh Aphaylath described Vientiane as a comparable small city in Asia – with a population of less than one million – and very dynamic economic growth. It is expected that the population will double by 2030. The challenge Vientiane is facing is to maintain the character of the city and to meet the demands of future developments. Vientiane has already initiated several projects to preserve the “old town,” build new developments, and provide the necessary infrastructure.
3. The third plenary session was held under the theme of “How do we want to govern? Good local governance.” The session was chaired by Mr. Christian Sautter, Former Minister of Finance, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of Employment, Economic Development and International Attractiveness. This session was introduced by a keynote speech of Mr. Rolf Alter, OECD. He focused on the topic of urban development and good public governance and the role of urban green growth strategies to contribute to better economic and environmental outcomes. The speakers of the session were Mr. Yorgos Kaminis, Mayor of Athens; M.R. Sukhumhand Paribatra, Governor of Bangkok; Mr. Naoise Ó Muirí, Lord Mayor of Dublin; Mr. Sam Tan Chin Siong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Foreign Affairs & Community Development, Youth and Sports) and Mayor of Central Singapore District; Ms. Jordanka Fandakova, Mayor of Sofia; and Mr. Hla Myint, Mayor of Yangon, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), and Minister of Development Affairs Yangon Region. The speakers emphasized that a forward-looking municipal policy has to be in line with the principles of participation and transparency. Different options for participation ensure that many different needs and concerns of the urban community are integrated into the urban development process. E-government is seen as a very useful approach to facilitate a wide range of public services (e.g., register of residents, change of address, vehicle registration, taxes, etc.) and to make administrative action transparent (e.g., participating in construction planning).
4. On both conference days, excursions illustrated some of the key themes of the 2nd ASEM-MGM. On the afternoon of 18 October 2012, governors and mayors visited the former Tempelhof Airport, now called Tempelhofer Freiheit, one of the world’s largest city-center development areas and a key location for Berlin’s future. The site has become Berlin’s most popular open space since the airport closed down in 2008. Berlin authorities are planning to build new urban neighborhoods, with attractive residential and commercial areas grouped around a huge park, on this 404-hectare (1,000-acre) site. Tempelhofer Freiheit is developing into a model for the city of the future, in which leisure spaces, homes, and future-oriented workplaces are moving closer again. Berlin is already a pioneer in innovative and sustainable mobility; with around 150 projects, the capital region is the country’s largest laboratory for electromobility. During the visit to Tempelhofer Freiheit, governors and mayors took advantage of the chance to try out various electric vehicles. On the morning of 19 October 2012, the governors and mayors visited Berlin’s most emblematic central locations, from the historical center and the development along the former Berlin Wall to the large projects of the future along the Spree River.
5. The conference concluded on 19 October 2012 with the adoption of the “Berlin Declaration.” With this declaration, the participants from major Asian and European cities agreed on a

model for urban development that is guided by quality of life goals for the city's population and unites the ideas of and policies for economic growth, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. In addition, they agreed to step up cooperation also below the level of mayors and governors. Plans call for concrete, project-related cooperation in the future on urban issues like transportation policy, the housing situation, and initiatives to combat climate change. As the closing declaration put it, enhancing exchanges of information, ideas, and experience is in the interest of economic and social stability and should also serve to promote progress in the individual cities. The declaration of the 2nd ASEM-MGM is attached as Annex 2.

6. Concluding the meeting, the participants expressed their appreciation to the host for the successful arrangements of the 2nd ASEM-MGM. In his closing remarks, the chair, Governing Mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit, thanked all the delegates for coming to Berlin and for their active participation and valuable contributions. He expressed his conviction that the ASEM dialogue between cities has shown that even in the age of videoconferences and smart phones, there is nothing like face-to face dialogue. Representatives of very different political systems were represented at the 2nd ASEM-MGM. Many countries in Asia are experiencing rapid economic growth, while Europe is in the middle of a financial and currency crisis. In these times, he said, solidarity is vital and the joint search for solutions is crucial. The relationship between European and Asian metropolises is also marked by solidarity and a joint search to pressing problems. He concluded that the 2nd ASEM-MGM shows that the representatives of important cities in Asia and Europe are in fact very interested in working together with a sense of common purpose, transcending all political differences.
7. With reference to a follow-up meeting, the Governing Mayor of Berlin mentioned that the meeting venue is to alternate between Asia and Europe and that the 3rd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors should take place in Asia. He said that in preliminary discussions, the Governor of Bangkok, M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, had indicated that his city would be willing to host this meeting, and he asked the Governor to say a few words. M.R. Sukumbhand Paribatra said that Bangkok would be honored to act as the host of the follow-up meeting and invited all participants to the 3rd ASEM-MGM.

The Governing Mayor of Berlin expressed his appreciation to the city of Bangkok for its willingness to host the 3rd ASEM-MGM in Bangkok in 2014.