



**QINGDAO INITIATIVE ON ADVANCING ASIA-EUROPE
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY AND UNLEASHING POTENTIAL FOR
INNOVATIVE GROWTH**

1. We, representatives of government, business and academia from ASEM members gathered in Qingdao, China on 19-20 June 2017 for the ASEM High-level Forum on Digital Connectivity and held a comprehensive and fruitful discussion under the theme of “Unleashing Potential for Innovative Growth”. On the basis of the discussions among 588 participants, the Chair summarizes as follows:

2. We noted that Asia-Europe region, representing about 60 percent of the World’s population, GDP and trade, holds an immense potential as a pillar for economic cooperation and innovative growth on a global scale. To tap into the potential, ASEM members have to adapt to the ever-changing economic landscape and explore new way to promote cooperation for growth. A new round of scientific and industrial revolution is underway, featuring the emergence of new technologies, new industries, and new business models. Digital technologies in particular, have spread rapidly, connected and deeply transformed the world to an unprecedented level. By creating new business opportunities and significantly reducing the costs of transactions and transplantation, digital connectivity proves to be a key force driving growth, creating jobs and promoting innovation. We appreciate that

digital connectivity has recently emerged as a new area of interest and cooperation among ASEM members. We look forward to greater collaboration to strengthen digital connectivity between Asia and Europe abide by the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and call for joint efforts in the following areas:

Enhancing the Development and Cooperation of Internet Industry

3. We encourage ASEM members to develop national digital strategies, to strengthen bilateral and multilateral policy communication and coordination, to promote digital strategy alignment across ASEM members, and to offer policy support for practical cooperation and projects.

4. We should intensify cooperation on internet technology and data sharing, and develop “Internet+” industry to foster a “Digital Asia-Europe”, and advocate best practice of cloud computing application in the region to forge synergy across industrial chain.

5. We emphasize the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) and its secure application. We encourage ASEM members to enhance cooperation to foster a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative environment for ICT technology, and strike a balance between information security and sharing.

Accelerating Construction of Digital Infrastructure

6. We support and encourage the construction of efficient, competitive digital infrastructure that enhances the connectivity of international telecommunication and facilitates communication between Asia and Europe.

7. We should encourage investment in the construction of cross-border fiber cable and other telecommunication trunk networks, increase the broadband coverage and enhance service capability and quality, bearing in mind the importance of transparent public tendering.

8. We encourage the formulation of policies that promote cross-border investment in research and development and innovation of digital economy, and investment in ICT among ASEM members by improving business environment.

Developing Cross-Border E-Commerce

9. We encourage ASEM members to promote the development of cross-border e-commerce in the region, to enhance dialogue and coordination in policies related to e-commerce and increase policy transparency. In particular, we call for policies that encourage MSMEs to conduct cross-border e-commerce and integrate into the global value chain, and provide shared opportunities for both foreign and domestic companies so as to embrace better inclusive economic growth.

10. We encourage ASEM members to adopt measures to facilitate cross border e-commerce, to promote cross-border paperless trade, to strengthen cooperation on single window for international trade, and to encourage the cooperation and communication among market participants that provide e-commerce payment and logistics services.

11. We should strengthen consumer protection, intellectual property right protection, and privacy protection in cross-border e-commerce to reinforce the trust and confidence of stakeholders towards cross-border e-commerce.

Facilitating Industrial Upgrading by Leveraging Big Data

12. We encourage ASEM members to enhance communication and cooperation on big data industry, and to take advantage of mobile internet, big data, cloud computing, Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) and Internet of Things (IoT) to integrate the data along the whole supply chain and foster the synergy between traditional industry and ICT and artificial intelligence

(AI), which will encourage innovation and push forward industrial upgrading.

13. We should intensify the communication and cooperation on the digitalisation of production as well as smart cities, smart mobility, IT security and smart farming among members, support the development of key technologies and their application in industry, and develop technological standards on Intelligent Life.

14. We encourage governments, companies, academics and research institutes of ASEM members to work together to provide technological and institutional support to the development of big data, cloud computing and IoT, and to cultivate a research and business ecosystem for cutting-edge technology in the field, which will facilitate its universal application.

Improving Policy Dialogue and Coordination Mechanism

15. We call for closer policy dialogue and coordination, and joint formulation and implementation of plans and measures for regional cooperation in digital connectivity as well as stronger policy support for practical cooperation. We underline the importance of open, transparent and non-discriminatory procurement procedures, and the benefits of technical inter-operability of ICT products and services.

16. We also emphasize the opportunities arisen from coordination among global, regional, and national frameworks and initiatives for promoting connectivity, such as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Belt and Road Initiative, APEC Connectivity Blueprint, China and Central and Eastern European Countries Cooperation, China-Europe Land-sea Express Route, EU-China Connectivity Platform, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and etc. We stress the need to foster synergies between various initiatives for the benefit of all ASEM members.

17. We welcome and support ASEM Leaders' decision to establish the

ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC), expect the APGC to coordinate and align ASEM activities on connectivity, and to provide overall guidance to deepen ASEM connectivity, including in digital related area.

18. We encourage ASEM members continue to host the forum, with themes and topics catering to the latest development and trend in digital related industries, in order to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation among government officials and business communities.

19. We will report the outcomes of this forum to the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Myanmar in November 2017. The outcomes will also contribute to the discussion on connectivity at the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting to be held in Korea and the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting to be held in Indonesia as well as other relevant ASEM Ministerial Meetings.

20. We thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Commerce of China, and China Council for The Promotion of International Trade for co-hosting this Forum and Qingdao Municipal People's Government for organizing the event. We also appreciate the co-sponsorship of Croatia, Myanmar, Norway and Singapore.