



Asia-Europe Meeting

2nd ASEM CONFERENCE

on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons

Closing Remarks

21 September 2017, Seoul, Korea

Chair's Summary

1. The 2nd ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons was held in Seoul, Korea on 19-21 September, 2017, by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. Following the 2015 ASEM Conference on Human Rights of Older Persons and 2016 ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons, 200 experts from 40 countries including high-level government officials of ASEM members, academia, NHRIs, INGOs and international organizations participated, and discussions were made on agenda related to the promotion of human rights of older persons.
2. The conference reviewed the trends and major activities of international

community regarding human rights of older persons; shared implementation state and information from ASEM members related to the internationally agreed goals ranging from the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and UN Sustainable Development Goals; and sought measures to promote international cooperation at the UN, NHRI, INGO, and ASEM level, respectively.

3. It was confirmed that the international community has made diversified efforts to promote and protect human rights of older persons: the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was held every year; the UN Human Rights Council appointed an independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; and the WHO proposed 'Global Strategy and Plan of Action'.
4. Also, ASEM members modified legislation and system and implemented various policies, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) initiated a Working Group on Ageing and established a three-year strategic plan, and INGOs established the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) for empowerment of the elderly.
5. This year, the 3rd implementation review of the Madrid International Plan of

Action on Ageing will be concluded, and the ASEM member had made efforts for implementation of the MIPAA. However, limitation of MIPAA was pointed out during the conference; it is difficult to identify overall changes of policies related to the elderly because the MIPAA is based on voluntary participation and its implementation is reviewed in every five years. It was agreed that to guarantee human rights of older persons, there is a need to establish a more effective plan at the 3rd World Assembly on Ageing expected to be held in 2022.

6. The conference shared best practices of ASEM members where the UN SDGs newly initiated following the UN MDGs were utilized in promoting policies for human rights of older persons. It was emphasized that when UN SDGs related to the life of the elderly including eradication of poverty, guarantee of healthy life, and promotion of life-long education and quality jobs are linked to human rights of older persons, it would have positive impact on eradication of poverty and realization of healthy lives for older persons.

7. However, concerns were expressed that despite efforts made by the international community, a number of older persons are face with poverty,

chronic diseases with lack of a care-taker, insufficient long-term care, and social exclusion and are not fully protected from diverse forms of discrimination and abuse.

8. It was confirmed that to address this issue, a forum for continuous public discussion, research and education and a campaign to change negative perception on older persons are needed, and the international community including the UN should cooperate to this end.
9. The conference agreed that the ASEM Global Ageing Center whose opening in 2018 is currently being carried out by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea should be established as a hub for related research and exchange, and requested the NHRCK to step up its efforts to enable the center to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights of older persons in ASEM members countries.
10. Lastly, the conference appreciated the National Human Rights Commission of Korea for providing a forum for discussion, expressed its anticipation of NHRCK making efforts to translate discussion made during the conference

into practical implementation and confirmed its will to continue discussion at the 3rd ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons in 2018.