



# 8<sup>th</sup> Model ASEM

15-20 November 2017, Yangon & Naypyidaw, Myanmar

In conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13)  
"Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development"

## Intervention<sup>1</sup>

### Student Representatives of the 8<sup>th</sup> Model ASEM

On the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13)  
20-21 November 2017 in Naypyidaw, Myanmar

*Young people. How often do they have the opportunity to directly convey their ideas to the leaders of today?*

Honourable Chair, Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Your Excellencies,

It is an honour and a privilege to be invited to the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) here in Myanmar and to contribute to ASEM's dialogue on "*Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development*".

We share the belief that active participation of youth in the ASEM process is key. Yet today, it is only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in ASEM's history that we are given the chance to offer our perspectives to you. We wish to make the most of this opportunity. Therefore, we have chosen to share with you our understanding and vision of partnerships for the future direction of ASEM.

This encompasses the strengthening of intergenerational and intercultural partnerships, and the creation of partnerships between civil-society and the political ASEM process.

First and foremost, as youth, we believe in intergenerational partnerships to cultivate aspirations across all generations for tomorrow. This requires a combination of both youth innovation and learning from past experiences. We are aware of the critical role the past plays in guiding the future. At the same time, with half of the world's population under 25 years old, we call upon you, the ASEM Leaders, to value the youth as equal partners in building a peaceful and sustainable future.

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<sup>1</sup> The oral intervention statement delivered at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) might differ slightly from this written version.

Secondly, we are committed to intercultural partnerships. Increased human mobility and advances in technology unite us in powerful ways. Only through our joint collaboration can we, as partners, develop compassion and respect towards people of diverse socio-cultural backgrounds. Cross-cultural partnerships foster reconciliation and tolerance. This is vital for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the creation of lasting peace. We must strengthen awareness and understanding among people of different cultures in Asia and Europe.

Finally, we believe in partnerships across all spheres of society: from the civil society to governments. People-to-people interactions between civil society representatives and decision-makers are of paramount importance to ensure the implementation of peace and sustainable development. Our presence here today is a testimony to our shared vision towards this collaborative leadership in shaping and defining the future of Asia and Europe.

These three ways of strengthening partnerships for peace and sustainable development represent the views of over 150 young people from all 51 ASEM partner countries who have participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Model ASEM. This Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) project is a shining example of how these three types of partnerships can be integrated. Hence, we call upon you, the ASEM Foreign Ministers, to adopt this integrated partnership approach in all your efforts towards building a future that we can all look forward to.

Thank you.

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