

## **ASEM COOPERATION IN THE APPLICATIONS OF ICT IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

*Co-sponsored by Vietnam, Sweden, Korea, Brunei, Japan and Ireland*

### **1. Rational**

Having acknowledged the increasing importance and far reaching impacts of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva in December 2003 declared the “common desire and commitments to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilise and share information and knowledge to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life”.

The importance to further enhance cooperation in ICT has also been highlighted by ASEM Leaders at their Summits in 1998, 2000 and 2002. A number of ASEM meetings and seminars, especially the ASEM Conference on Globalisation and ICT held in Sweden in March 2003, the Trans Eurasia Information Network sponsored by EC, Korea, Singapore and France, have underlined the need of human resource development and capacity building in the Information Society for All.

### **2. Objectives**

To provide an opportunity for high-level officials, experts and researchers from governments, institutions and private sector of ASEM partners to exchange views, information and experiences regarding ICT application.

To discuss and work out joint activities and potential follow-ups to bring into full play the potentials in ICT of Asia and Europe.

To better coordinate policy of ASEM partners in the application of ICT in human resource development and capacity building in the context of globalization.

To network institutions, agencies and enterprises working in ICT in ASEM partners.

To make active contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Phase 1 “Building the Information Society: a Global Challenge in the New Millennium”.

### **3. Proposed Activities**

*“An ASEM High-Level Conference on the Applications of ICT in Human Resource Development and Capacity Building”* will be held in Vietnam in

2006. This will be the first ASEM event of its kind with high-level representatives. The organisers will be the Ministry of Posts and Telematics of Vietnam,

Experts will meet in 2005 to make preparation for the conference.

#### **4. Expected Outcomes**

Statement issued by the Conference will be a concrete outcome which will compose of proposals of ways and means for effective cooperation programs, best practices as well as assessment of opportunities and challenges to be addressed.

Follow-up activities would include launching pilot projects to design new form of ICT-based networking; linking education, training and research institutions among ASEM partners; expanding existing e-learning networks and programs to enhance capacity of the young generation to apply ICTs effectively in educational activities...

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