



PRESS RELEASE

Demographic Changes in Asia and Europe: Challenges for the Youth

A side-event on the occasion of the 26th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting
11 May 2011, Vilnius (Lithuania)

Press release no.: 110505_PR1103
5 May 2011

Asia-Europe dialogue discuss challenges of ageing population to the youth

An Asia-Europe dialogue exploring the role of youths in mitigating the negative consequences caused by an ageing population will be held on the sidelines of an international bi-regional meeting in Vilnius.

The dialogue on "Demographic Changes in Asia and Europe: Challenges for the Youth" will bring together representatives from the youth and education sectors to share their views and expertise on this topic from Asian and European perspectives. The dialogue is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in partnership with the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and the Mykolas Romeris University.

Four panellists from Finland, Lithuania, The Philippines and Singapore will discuss pertinent issues from demographic developments, with a particular focus on the challenges posed by an ageing population. Key areas of discussion include potential initiatives, programmes and measures that could encourage solidarity between the younger and older generations.

To commemorate the event, ASEF will make a donation of books to Mykolas Romeris University. ASEF will present copies of its recent publications amounting to about 115 books, covering themes such as arts, culture, education, human rights and good governance, intercultural dialogue, media and youth.

The public dialogue cum book donation is organised in conjunction with the 26th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting, which will be held 12-13 May 2011 in Vilnius. The 2-day meeting will gather the members of the ASEF Board of Governors or their representatives, who will review ASEF strategy and policies to align them with the principles and priorities of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). After its last round of enlargement in October 2010, ASEM now has 48 participating members.

.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The abstract and programme of the public briefing is attached (please see Annexes). You or your representative are invited to attend or to conduct interviews with any of the panellists or organisers. Details as follows:

Event: **Demographic Changes in Asia and Europe: Challenges for the Youth**

Date: **11 May 2011 (Wednesday)**

Time: **4:30 to 6:30 PM**

Venue: **I-414 Conference Hall, Mykolas Romeris University
Ateities g. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania**

Media contact:

Ms Kristine Lucero | Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Tel: +65 6874 9728 | Mobile: +65 97717536 | Email: kristine.lucero@asef.org

About the organisers:



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 500 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org



The **ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN)** is an international non-profit organization consisting of more than 500 Asian and European young leaders from the 46 ASEM countries who have graduated from the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) University programme since 1998. ASEFUAN aims to strengthen cross-cultural ties, promote excellence, and foster Asia-Europe relations at international and grassroots level within its membership and with its partner institutions. It organises activities to maintain and reinforce the relationships forged among participants of the ASEF University programme and undertakes projects to promote a continuing intercultural dialogue between Asia and Europe, particularly among the younger generation. www.asefuan.org



Mykolas Romeris University, named after Professor Mykolas Pijus Paskalis Romeris, a founder of the Lithuanian Constitutional Law, is a dynamic, modern University with a well-established place in the sphere of global higher education. The mission of the University is to educate youth, to amass and nourish intellectual potential, to train leaders capable of creating and implementing innovations, which influence the overall scientific, cultural and technological progress changing society. It is possible to achieve this, understanding that only a competitive environment gives birth to quality and that universities are equal

participants of the market. The University fosters autonomy. This allows to independently tailor the content of studies and areas of research, while applying the latest management principles to improve and change one's activities, taking into account contemporary European higher education development tendencies and the needs of the labour market. Experts from the European University Association (EUA) conducted a comprehensive audit of Mykolas Romeris University's activities. They concluded that the University undoubtedly has the potential to become one of the most notable social science universities in Europe. www.mruni.eu/en/