

The Asia Europe Meeting was established in 1996 with 26 Member countries as an informal 'Dialogue Forum'. Presently, it has 53 members, 51 member countries and 2 regional organizations (ASEAN Secretariat and European Commission). ASEM represents 62.3 % of world population, 57.2 % of Global GDP and 60 % of World's Trade. ASEM has maintained a consistent edge as a forum for political dialogue between countries with diverse and complimentary capacities. India joined as a member in 2007 when the second expansion of ASEM happened.

2. **ASEM Meetings-** The Summit level meetings are held biennially. As of now, 11 ASEM Summits have been held. In the 11th ASEM Summit held at Ulanbaatar, Mongolia in July 2016, the Indian delegation was led by Vice President of India. The 12th ASEM Summit will be held in Brussels, Belgium from 18-19 October 2018 and Vice President of India will lead the delegation. Apart from biennially Summits, regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Ministers of Finance, Education, Culture, Transport, Mayors, Governors and Parliamentarians are held regularly.

3. India hosted the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in Delhi in November 2013. The Meeting marked a new beginning in our relationship with ASEM. The 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in Myanmar in November 2017 and MoS (VKS) represented India.

4. Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is the only permanently established institution of ASEM. India used to contribute USD 100,000 annually to ASEM since the time of becoming a member in 2007 to 2010 to support collaborative initiatives undertaken by ASEF. Now India contributes USD 120,000 annually. With ASEM, Ministry has successfully organized the 19th Summer University Project on 'Sustainable Urbanization in Heritage Cities' at Pune from 9-21 August 2015 in partnership with INTACH.

5. **Tangible Areas of Cooperation-** Presently, there are 19 tangible areas of cooperation out of which India is cooperating in 11 areas. India is an active participant in ASEM. In the last three years, India has taken the following initiatives under tangible cooperation :-

- Ministry hosted an ASEM Roundtable on 'Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings' in association with CII in September 2014 in Hyderabad and the 2nd Roundtable was organized in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, November 2015.
- Ministry organized an ASEM Workshop on Cooperation between Asia and

Europe in 'Life Science, Pharmaceutical, Bio-Technology and Medical Devices Sectors' in November 2014 in association with CII.

- Ministry hosted a Roundtable on 'Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescued Efforts' among ASEM countries in December 2014 in association with Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Another workshop on 'Towards Efficient and Sustainable Water management' was held in February 2015 in New Delhi in association with CII.
- In February 2017, Ministry organized another Workshop on 'Non-invasive technologies for Diagnostics and Treatment of Diabetes' in New Delhi in association with CII.

6. India is a member of ASEM Working Group on 'Press and Public Awareness Management Strategies'. As a member, India is hosting Foreign Policy Modules for ASEM Diplomats on 'Diplomacy and Foreign Policy - an Indian Perspective'. The 4th edition of the Foreign Policy Module will be held in FSI from 14-20 November 2018 in New Delhi.

7. To celebrate 20th anniversary of ASEM, India hosted ASEM Youth Dialogue on 26 March 2016 in New Delhi in partnership with Young Indians (YI) of CII. In February 2017 Ministry organized an ASEM Workshop on 'Techniques and Instrument for Conservation of Monuments and Artifacts' in New Delhi.

8. The 1st International Conference on Women Economic Empowerment was held in Vilnius of Lithuania in May 2017. The 2nd Conference will be organized in India in 2018.

9. Other initiatives done by Ministry are hosting of 11th ASEM Customs Directors/ Commissioners Meeting in Goa in October 2016, hosting of 7th ASEM Museum Network (ASEMUS) in March 2017 at National Museum, New Delhi.

10. Being a large platform, ASEM uses to discuss issues of relevance and global concern under three pillars of political, economic & financial and socio-cultural. The decisions and declarations in ASEM Meetings are not binding on member countries, but being a large platform, important political, economic and socio-cultural issues are routinely discussed.

11. The 12th ASEM Summit at Brussels will discuss important issues of ICT, counter terrorism, migration, maritime ocean governance, maritime security and safety under political and security pillar, World Trade Organisation (WTO), inclusive growth, economic integration, SMEs, women empowerment, tax digitalisation under economic and financial pillar, education, inclusion and equality, gender equality, sustainable tourism, cultural diplomacy under socio-

cultural pillar. The Summit will further discuss issues on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), gender equality, connectivity, climate change, non-proliferation, North Korea and Iran.