



## ASEM Workshop on YOUTH LEARNERS' MOBILITY IN AN AGILE WORLD

an SDG 14 "Life Below Water" Learning Programme as Case Study  
23 - 24 September 2021, 14:00 - 17:00 hrs. (GMT+7)

# Concept Note

### Rationale

- In December 2019, ASEM Foreign Ministers, at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Madrid, stressed the role of young people and the role ASEM education cooperation in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>. Through education cooperation and collaborative exchanges within the ASEM framework, young people can be empowered to become active global citizens ready to tackle global challenges and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
- With less than a decade left to 2030, we still have a lot left to do. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has disrupted the achievement of the SDGs in more ways than one. On the education front, most education exchange programmes have been halted because of the pandemic and travel restrictions. How do we continue to promote innovative and agile education exchange programmes within the ASEM framework to support the achievement of the SDGs?
- Virtual Student Mobility<sup>2</sup> has become the buzzword in education cooperation. Promoting and supporting virtual mobility exchanges have been included among the strategic objectives of the draft ASEM Education Strategy 2030 which will be adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers later this year. How can ASEM capitalise on the existing digital learning tools to support virtual education exchange that will empower ASEM youths to contribute to the attainment of the SDGs?
- To find an innovative solution to virtual youth learners' mobility in ASEM, Thailand, in partnership with the European Union Delegation in Bangkok, the British Embassy Bangkok, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) and the British Council, will organise the ASEM Workshop on Youth Learners' Mobility in an Agile World where we will invite learners and experts both in the fields of education internationalisation and educational technology solutions from across Asia and Europe to exchange views and experiences, and to brainstorm ideas on how ASEM can promote virtual mobility exchanges in SDG education.

<sup>1</sup>Paragraph 22 of the 14th ASEM FMM Chair's Statement

<sup>2</sup>VSM is the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to create cross-border collaboration that enhances intercultural understanding and knowledge exchange.

- To give the Workshop a clear and practical outcome, the Workshop will consider SDG14 “Life Below Water” as a focus in co-creating a learning framework for mobility programme. The design thinking workshop among key stakeholders, including learners, scholars, internationalisation experts and educational technology service providers, would discuss how the digital technology can weave an education mobility experience into a marine sustainability learning programme without learners having to travel across the world. How do we learn about sustainable fishing without physical visits to fishing vessels, ports, and coastal communities in Southeast Asia? How can one experience the remarkable biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef without flying to Australia? How do we learn from the best practices of Europe’s Marine Protected Areas without having to make a trip to the Mediterranean or the Baltic Seas? We invite experts to come together and find innovative ways to make these virtual mobility exchanges a possibility.

## Objectives

- The Workshop aims to come up with recommendations / “solutions” for how ASEM can utilise digital platforms to co-create a virtual youth mobility learning programme to support SDG Education. Such solutions should allow the ASEM youth to benefit from the ‘exchange student experience’ and educational resources of ASEM Partners without having to physically travel to another country.
- The Workshop will use SDG14 “Life Below Water” as an example, to provide a practical basis for discussion. The discussion should yield concrete recommendations on an SDG14 virtual mobility learning programme, which will serve as an example of how this new learning modality can be applied to other SDGs or topics of interest.
- The recommendations from the Workshop will be reported to the ASEM Education Ministers at the ASEMME8, to be hosted by Thailand virtually on 13-15 December 2021. ASEM Partners, the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES), ASEF, SEAMEO RIHED, EU SHARE and other relevant players may consider building on the ideas and recommendations generated in the Workshop to design an ASEM SDG learning programme with mobility elements going forward.
- The Workshop will also provide a networking opportunity for educators with interest in virtual youth mobility from across ASEM countries to form partnerships with a view of taking forward the ideas from the Workshop towards implementation.

## Co-organisers

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
- Ministry of Education of Thailand
- The EU Delegation in Bangkok
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand
- British Embassy Bangkok
- SEAMEO RIHED
- The British Council



### Co-organisers



For more details and registration