

Chairman's Statement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert Meeting  
for ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme

May 30, 2006

1. Participants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert Meeting welcomed the decision at the ASEM V held at Hanoi in 2004 regarding the extension of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (ASEM-DUO). Participants also very welcomed the Thailand's decision to become a new contributing member in the ASEM-DUO starting from 2006.
2. Participants noted that, as it is generally agreed in the ASEM process, ASEM-DUO is one of the few active ASEM initiatives, considering the number of actual exchanges between the Europe and Asian regions. Participants also generally agreed that higher priority may be given to the mobility, not necessarily to the establishment of joint-degree or dual-degree programmes.
3. However, they shared a concern that an imbalance is growing in the ASEM-DUO in two respects; first, there are more contributing members from Asia than those from Europe, and second, the participating members are concentrated to a small number of members in both regions, mainly large economies. It was also noted that DUO-Denmark has been suspended during the year 2005 and 2006, and the number of applications for some DUO programs has not been increasing as before.
4. In this regard, strong efforts by member countries were needed for the increase of contributing members especially from Europe and also for further dissemination of ASEM-DUO opportunities to enlarged ASEM members. As in the 2<sup>nd</sup> expert meeting, participants agreed to share information on their information dissemination efforts in search for best practices. They welcomed the efforts by the Secretariat in this regard, including the first Alumni meeting and also the creation of 'finding partners' page in its website.
5. The Secretariat expressed a concern that the information on the implementation of the ASEM-DUO was becoming fragmented, since some individual DUO programmes are exclusively handled by individual members. In this regard, the

Secretariat has urged contributing members to provide further information on the implementation of the individual DUO programmes. Participants concurred that all relevant information on the implementation of individual DUO programmes should be transmitted to the Secretariat and they will convey this concern to the relevant agencies in their countries. Further details and actions are to be discussed between the Secretariat and the individual contributing members.

6. Participants agreed that the expert meeting be held every other year, and take places in Asia and Europe in an alternate manner. In this regard, considering that the ASEM 7 is to be held in China, the next venue could be Beijing, on the condition that China would accept this proposal. END.