

**Progress Report of
the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme**

**Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship
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Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

1. Background

- ◆ 2000. 10 Korea, France and Singapore jointly proposed the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (ASEM-DUO) at ASEM 3 held in Seoul, Korea, and this initiative was endorsed by the summit.

- ◆ 2001. 4 Representatives of 16 ASEM countries participated in the Expert Group Meeting held in Seoul, to develop details of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

- ◆ 2001. 9 A Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship was established in Seoul, Korea.

- ◆ 2001.12 DUO-Korea Fellowship Program 2001 selected 8 pairs of students and professors each.

- ◆ 2002. 5-9
 - DUO-Singapore Fellowship Programme 2002 selected 18 pairs of students
 - DUO-France 2002/3 Fellowship Programme selected 16 exchange projects.
 - DUO-Korea 2002 selected 19 pairs of students, 2 pairs of high school teachers and 14 pairs of professors.
 - Denmark announced to join the ASEM-DUO Fellowship as a contributing partner at the ASEM 4 held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

- ◆ 2003. 5-11
 - DUO-Singapore 2003/4 selected 27 pairs of students.
 - DUO-France 2003/4 selected 9 projects and DUO-Korea 16 pairs of professors and 33 pairs of students
 - DUO-Denmark announced 14 pairs of professors and 15 pairs of students
 - Twenty-seven representatives from 13 ASEM Member countries participated the 2nd ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting in Seoul, Korea.

- ◆ 2004. 6-7
 - DUO-Singapore 2004 selected 18 pairs of students and DUO-Denmark 12 pairs of students and 11 pairs of students
 - DUO-Korea 2004 selected 12 pairs of professors and 39 pairs of students and DUO-France 9 projects.

- ◆ 2004. 10 ASEM-DUO Programme was endorsed for extended period of 2006-2010 at ASEM V in Hanoi, Vietnam



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

- ◆ 2005. 5-7 -DUO-Singapore 2005 selected 18 pairs of students, DUO-Korea 2005 selected 12 pairs of professors and 45 pairs of students and DUO-France 6 projects.
- ◆ 2005. 11 -Thailand has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member
- ◆ 2006. 1-4 -DUO-France, DUO-Singapore and DUO-Thailand 2006 called for applications
- ◆ 2006. 5 -DUO-Korea 2006 called for applications
-DUO-France 2006 selected 7 projects

2. Purpose of the ASEM-DUO

The ASEM-DUO aims at contributing to better enhance reciprocal academic exchanges between the students and the teachers of the European Union and Asian ASEM member countries. It is dedicated not only to increase the number of people-to-people exchanges between the two regions but also to encourage the development of bilateral exchange programs: through creating new programs or inducing people's active engagement to exchange programs which have already been established but in dormancy. The first plan was designed for 2001-2005. Thanks to efforts of contributing members and successful progress, the plan was endorsed for another extended period of 2006-2010 from ASEM V in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2004.

3. Structure and Principles

1) Structure of the ASEM-DUO

The ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program is basically an umbrella program, and actual fellowships are provided by individual program. At present, there are four such individual programs, and they are respectively called DUO-Denmark, DUO-France, DUO-Korea and DUO-Singapore, reflecting the contributing member countries. All these individual programs are governed by a set of Core Principles and the rest of the specific details of the programs are to be prescribed by the contributing members.



2) Core Principles

Core Principles, which govern all individual fellowship programs, consist of three principles. They are as follows:

Only *pairs* of students or teachers between the two educational institutions, one in Asia and the other in Europe, are to be supported.

The standardized duration of financial support - Financial support is given in terms of *units*, not in terms of months or years; for students, one unit comprises of six months; for teachers, one unit is one month. From the Expert Meeting held in November 2003, the definition altered to *a semester of 4 months to 6 months*.

In regards to the alteration agreed from the meeting, the standardized amount of financial support –12,000 euros for a pair of students for *1 unit* was adjusted to *8,000~12,000 euros* (total of 8,000 euros for two students for four months and 12,000 for six months), and *6,000 euros* for a pair of teachers for *1 unit* (total of 6,000 euros for two teachers for one month). Each individual program may specify the maximum number of units for support.

4. Progress of individual DUO Programs (in alphabetical order)

Current individual DUO programs slightly differ in details, while fully observing the Core Principles. Current status and characteristics of each program are as follows:

1) DUO-Denmark

Under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DUO-Denmark was launched on April 1 2003. The announcement of the DUO-Denmark was made through the ASEM-DUO website, <http://www.asemduo.org>, and the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in ASEM member countries were sent out from the secretariat.

The objective of this fellowship is to promote the creation of the closest possible bilateral links between the higher educational institutions in Denmark and Asian countries, by financing the exchange of students and professors in pairs. Hence, DUO-Denmark does not support existing exchange projects but support new projects or projects with new developments. DUO-Denmark 2003 supported 14 projects from 4 Asian members, China, Korea, Singapore, and Thailand were selected to dispense 246,000 euros. Except for 3 cancelled projects due to internal reasons, 11 projects



have been successfully completed.

DUO-Denmark 2004 programme selected 12 projects amounting to 184,000 EUROS to support 11 pairs of professors and 11 pairs of students in partnership with China, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, and Japan. Twenty professors and all students completed exchange. Two professors and 4 students are working on final reports back from exchange. One pair of professors was withdrawn from award.

Eligibility has been more elaborated for 2004 programme criteria. For exchanges between Denmark and China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam that are promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, only Danes are eligible from Denmark and nationals of the countries mentioned from the Asian side. For exchanges between Denmark and Brunei, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore, professors and students from Danish universities are accepted as are professors and students from the ASEM countries.

After having assessed future of DUO-Denmark with assistance from an independent consulting group in early 2005 (please refer to its evaluation report on the “archive menu” at www.asemduo.org), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed its continuance to support DUO-Denmark with its current share of Asian partner countries. Meanwhile Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MSTI) decided to withdraw from the second stage. Further discussion was made in terms of management of the programme without MSTI’s partnership. However, Ministry of Foreign Affairs informally communicated to the Secretariat its intention to withdraw from DUO-Denmark completely. Official announcement will be made in a few weeks time.

2) DUO-France (subject to further information)

DUO-France, financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims at supporting cooperation projects (post graduate level only) between higher-education institutions located in France and in the Asian ASEM countries. Like DUO-Denmark, DUO-France does not support existing projects but encourages their development or helps in the creation of new projects. Selection of persons to be exchanged under the projects is left with the educational institution. Verification of fellows’ nationality has recently been added to reinforce the objective of exchange between French and Asian fellows.

In June 2002, the selection of projects was made for 16 exchange projects, which



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

involved institutions in France, and 8 Asian member countries – Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Singapore, China, Philippines, and Malaysia. A total of 48 students and 44 professors were to be exchanged. As the 2-year project ended as of August, 2 professors and 4 students were not able to complete exchanges with reasons including SARS.

For DUO-France 2003, 9 projects were awarded. Total of 448,000 EUROS was to be shared with the nominated Asian members from Vietnam, Japan, Philippines, Korea, China, and Indonesia. Fifty-two professors and 50 students were scheduled for exchange.

DUO-France 2004 announced its selection of 9 projects with 22 pairs of students and 19 pairs of professors for 322,000 EUROS in July, 2004. Seven partner countries included China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, and the Philippines.

From 2005, the French government contracted an independent education service organization, EGIDE, to operation of DUO-France including financial transaction of fellowship to fellows in order to simplify its internal procedure. It has been agreed to have close cooperation between EGIDE and the Secretariat in sharing information with prior approval of French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In January 2005, DUO-France 2005 issued calling for applications until March, 2005. DUO-France 2005 Award went to 6 projects to support 66 professors and 24 students with 165,000 EUROS. Exchange partners are from Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The actual exchange has not taken place yet.

DUO-France 2006 has currently announced 7 successful projects that would be endowed with 238,000 EUROS. Asian partners include China, Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

3) DUO-Korea

DUO-Korea was launched in 2001. Other than Core Principles, this program requires cooperation agreements signed between the two educational institutions and the persons to be exchanged are selected under the cooperation agreement before submitting applications. DUO-Korea does not impose any further requirements, in order to encourage as many applications as possible.



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

In 2001, DUO-Korea selected 16 pairs of applicants, 8 for exchanges of students and 8 for professors, which involve 9 European member countries - Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom - and nine Korean universities across the country. Except for one withdrawal from professor's side, all students and professors selected have successfully completed exchanges.

In 2002, DUO-Korea selected 2 pairs of high school teachers, 16 pairs of professors and 19 pairs of students in July. The decision involves European educational institutions from 10 European member countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the U.K.). Except for one cancellation on professor's side, all professors and all pairs of students have successfully completed exchanges.

DUO-Korea 2003 awarded 16 pairs of professors and 33 pairs of students from 10 European countries-Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. Except for 2 cancelled projects, all fellows have completed exchanges and 3 professors are under obligation to submit final papers.

DUO-Korea 2004 produced 12 pairs of professors and 40 pairs of students were selected for total of 392,000 EUROS. There were 10 partner countries including Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, UK, Spain, Italy, Sweden, and the Netherlands. 23 professors and all students completed exchanges. One professor and 1 student are working on final documents to finalize exchange.

Before making proposal for DUO-Korea 2004 calls, Advisory Committee for ASEM-DUO Secretariat (ACAS) members voted to add pre-screening procedure on nationality of applicants as a way to enforce institutional relationship.

In 2005, DUO-Korea selected 9 pairs of professors, 3 pairs of teachers, and 45 pairs of students. Eight professors, 6 teachers, and 80 students have finished exchanges. At the Selection Committee Meeting, Committee Members agreed to accept EU nationals in general as rightful candidates for DUO-Korea programme even though their nationality may not coincide with those of institutions and the amendment will be effective from year 2006.

DUO-Korea 2006 is open for applications until June 9, 2006.



4) DUO-Singapore

DUO-Singapore was first announced in November 2001. There were 18 pairs of students for DUO-Singapore 2002 (academic year 2002/03). This first batch of exchange involved all three Singapore universities, and European educational institutions from 7 EU member countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and UK). For DUO-Singapore 2003, 27 pairs of students were selected. The European students came from 8 European countries, namely Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and UK. For DUO-Singapore 2004, 18 pairs of students were selected. Universities from 7 EU countries were involved, namely Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and UK. DUO-Singapore 2005 once again saw 18 pairs of students, with partners from universities from 8 EU member countries, namely Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and UK.

Desiring to share the benefits of reciprocal academic exchanges with fellow ASEAN countries, DUO-Singapore had encouraged ASEAN students in the three Singaporean universities to participate in the programme. For DUO-Singapore 2002, one Malaysian student from the Singapore Management University was awarded the Fellowship. This number was doubled for DUO-Singapore 2003 as two Malaysian students (one each from the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University) were given the awards. For DUO-Singapore 2004, three ASEAN students from the National University of Singapore received the awards (one each from Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam). One Vietnamese student from the Nanyang Technological University was awarded the Fellowship for DUO-Singapore 2005.

DUO-Singapore 2006 is currently open for applications.

5) DUO-Thailand

Due to a greater number of students and faculties interested in joining the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program, Thailand was approached by the Korean government to become a co-sponsor of the program.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE), Ministry of Education, as a government agency responsible for higher education policies and standards, had developed a project



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

proposal on “DUO-Thailand Fellowship Program” and submitted to the Cabinet in May 2005. The project was strongly supported by related government agencies, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Civil Service Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Bureau of the Budget.

The project was approved by the Cabinet in September 2005 with the budgetary support of 48,900,000 baht (around one million euros) for its implementation in a 5-year period (2006-2010). The DUO-Thailand Fellowship Program aims to promote exchange of students and faculties between Thailand and ASEM member states in Europe on a balanced basis.

The DUO-Thailand Fellowship Program 2006 has been launched in April 2006. The program supports exchange between Thai and European students and faculties in areas of Health Sciences, Tropical Medicine, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Neuroscience, Software and Digital Technology, Fashion Design, and Logistics. Exchange of students is undertaken on the basis of credit transfer arrangement.

Call for applications has been announced to Thai and European higher education institutions and is due on 18 July 2006. The Program’s Implementation Guideline has been posted on the websites of the Secretariat of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program (www.aseduo.org) and of CHE (www.inter.mua.go.th). Selection of applicants will be made by the National Committee consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, higher education bodies, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, and the Commission on Higher Education. The selection is expected to be announced in August 2006.

6) Beneficiary Members

From all the information of nominees from above mentioned individual programmes, we found the following;



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

<Table 1> Number of awardees of ASEM-DUO Programme

Year	Number of Nominated Beneficiaries				
	Denmark	France	Korea	Singapore	TOTAL
2001			30 P14 S16		30 P14 S16
2002		92 P44 S48	68 P30 S38	36 S36	196 P74 S122
2003	48 P22 S26	102 P52 S50	94 S28 S66	54 S54	298 P102 S196
2004	42 P20 S22	82 P38 S44	104 P24 S80	36 S36	264 P82 S182
2005		51 P27 S24	112 P24 S88	36 S36	199 P51 S148
TOTAL	90 P42 S48	327 P161 S166	408 P120 S288	162 S162	987 P323 S664

✚ P=Professor S=Student

✚ There is a discrepancy between number of awardees and actual exchange fellows due to cancellations and failure to implement exchange. The data is updated to actual figure at the time of report.

Except for DUO-Korea, the rest of DUO Programmes have selected fewer or the same number of nominees than last year.

<Table 2> Fellowship of ASEM-DUO Programme

Year	Fellowship (unit: Euros)				
	Denmark	France	Korea	Singapore	TOTAL
2001			138,000		138,000
2002		420,000	342,000	216,000	978,000
2003	204,000	448,000	348,000	216,000	1,216,000
2004	178,000	322,000	392,000	144,000	1,036,000
2005		165,000	424,000	144,000	733,000
TOTAL	382,000	1,355,000	1,644,000	720,000	4,101,000

DUO-Korea topped with the highest awarded fellowship for year 2005 as well as for accumulated amount. The total accumulated figure of 4,101,000 EUROS covers approximately 70% of 6 million Euros, the amount that 3 countries officially initiated in 2001 for the first phase 2001-2005.



7) Analysis of Demand & Supply for ASEM-DUO Programme

With new joining ASEM members, the beneficiary countries increased to 38 countries. For there was no call for DUO-Denmark 2005 programme, Germany rose to second largest beneficiary member from EU. The following is the table of countries in ranking order of its accumulated amount of fellowship from 2001 until 2005.

<Table 3> Beneficiary ASEM Member Countries 2001-2005(unit: Euro)

Rank	European	Fellowship	Asian	Fellowship
1	France	884,500	Korea	907,000
2	Germany	310,000	Singapore	413,000
3	Denmark	228,000	Vietnam	205,000
4	Sweden	163,000	China	161,500
5	UK	123,000	Thailand	124,000
6	Finland	109,000	Japan	108,500
7	The Netherlands	91,000	Indonesia	76,000
8	Spain	46,000	Philippines	68,000
9	Belgium	33,000	Malaysia	36,000
10	Austria	20,000	Brunei Darussalam	0
Rank	European	Fellowship	Asian	Fellowship
11	Italy	16,000		
12	Ireland	7,000		
13	Greece	6,000		
14	Lithuania	4,000		
15	Czech Republic	3,000		
16	Poland	3,000		
	*Total	2,046,500		2,054,500

*Through DUO-Denmark, Asian students were paid more fellowship for having longer exchange period than Danish students.

5. The ASEM-DUO Secretariat

To facilitate the implementation of the ASEM-DUO initiative, the Secretariat serves as a focal contact point and depository for relevant information of the programme besides



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

providing administrative assistance. A minimum coordination among individual DUO programmes is indeed indispensable in order to maintain consistency and avoid duplicating support, as well as to maximize the effectiveness of the programmes and minimize the cost of implementation. The Secretariat also serves, depending on each country's needs, as a center for the receiving and processing applications for ASEM-DUO programmes. In that respect, the Secretariat works closely with ASEM partners that are interested in the ASEM-DUO programme including contributing partners, in designing procedure and implementing programs to best suit the needs of each partner.

In order to increase participation by ASEM member countries, the Director General of the Secretariat paid a couple of visits to China in June 2004. The meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education in China dwelt on the subject of progress of ASEM-DUO program and the possibility of financial contribution to the ASEM-DUO programs.

From June through July 2004, the Secretariat conducted a survey to over a thousand DUO programmes applicants and fellows for 3 weeks on the 3 following areas;

- General information and administration affairs
- Fellowship, selection, and evaluation process (for fellows only)
- Comments and advice on public relations

There were 146 returned surveys, and they were analyzed with a recommendation to better implement the role of the Secretariat. The preliminary report was shared with working level officials from contributing countries for further feedback. After receiving feedback from those countries, the Secretariat uploaded the information on the homepage website.

In September 2004, there was a meeting held with EUA at EAIE Conference held in Italy. As a result, the Secretariat set up a registration and search engine on its searching for partners' corner in the website for universities to take part in. The news was published in November 19th issue of EUA Newsletter. For further promotion of the program, the Secretariat had meetings with the Netherlands' Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and Sweden's Ministry of Education and Science and DAAD Germany.

For a new second phase (2006-2010) of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme that was granted in ASEM V held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2004, Dr. Sung also paid a visit to



Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship

contributing countries including Denmark, France, and Singapore requesting future plan concerning the extension and including new ASEM members as beneficiaries in November and December, 2004.

From the meetings with contributing countries, members expressed strong support for networking and information sharing. Accordingly, the Secretariat set up a database of ASEM-DUO fellows on the website, www.asemduo.org to facilitate the request. The database shows basic information and mission reports of fellows for those who are interested in exchange and search for more concrete experience of predecessors.

To further inquire on possibility in joining as contributing members, Dr. Sung made a business trip to Germany and Finland in September, 2005. In addition, a meeting with the Thai Ministry of Education took place in November for Dr. Sung to advise on setting up DUO-Thailand from 2006. Committee has been organized to develop the management of DUO-Thailand.

On November 25th 2005, with the assistance of French Embassy in Korea, the Secretariat organized its first ASEM-DUO Fellows' Alumni Party in Seoul, Korea. Over 100 alumni and officers from ASEM member embassies and university participated to create alumni network among fellows after their exchange and promotion of ASEM-DUO programme.

6. The Third ASEM-DUO Experts' Meeting in Paris

Twenty-five participants from 13 ASEM member countries gathered at the 3rd ASEM-DUO Experts' Meeting in Paris on May 30th 2006. Participating countries include Brunei Darussalam, EC, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Singapore, Thailand, the Netherlands, and Vietnam. At the Meeting, all concurred that there was a serious imbalance between Asia and European contributing members. More European participation was strongly encouraged. Currently, there are 3 Asian contributing members from Korea, Singapore, and Thailand and 1 European from France alone. There was a consensus among contributing members that "mobility" can be given top priority in the ASEM-DUO Programme. In turn, Secretariat's role as an information center is to be strengthened in pre-screening duplicate applicants for different DUO programmes. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2008 in Asia.

END.