



5TH ASEM | RECTORS' CONFERENCE  
& STUDENTS' FORUM

## OVERVIEW

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### BACKGROUND

The [1<sup>st</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference \(ARC1\)](#) took place in 2008 in response to the [ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting \(ASEM ME\)](#) launched in the same year. Since then, ARC has been held biennially in Asia and Europe alternatively.

The [ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum \(ARC\)](#) is recognised as an Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM ME. ARC is also one of the initial commitments to the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which is the successor to the United Nations Decade of ESD (2005-2014). It is one of the few existing large-scale inter-regional projects that aims to advance ESD-related policies.

As a high-level platform for inter-regional dialogue, the past editions of ARC have brought together hundreds of Asian and European university leaders for solution-oriented discussions on emerging higher education issues concerning both regions.

The [5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum \(ARC5\)](#) will take place on 4-8 April 2016 at Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic. The Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum will evolve around the topic of "Employability: Asia and Europe Prepare the New Generation". With increased numbers of unemployed and underemployed youth, employability is a topic on the mind of policy makers, educators, researchers, businesses and young people across Asia and Europe. Due to increased demands from the labour market, a degree does not guarantee employment anymore. Cooperation between universities and businesses can provide students with the necessary flexible, innovative and specialist skills and competences, and help them better prepare for the labour market.

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### PARTICIPANTS

ARC5 Students' Forum will gather participants from all [ASEM member countries](#) selected through an Open Call. The Open Call and selection process will ensure a geographical and gender balance as well as a diversity of participants from various fields, academic disciplines and other relevant experiences.

More than 150 Rectors of renowned universities, business leaders, industry representatives and representatives from governments, international and non-governmental organisations from all ASEM member countries will attend the ARC5 Rectors' Conference.

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## PROGRAMME

ARC5 consists of 2 core programme elements:

### 1. ARC5 Students' Forum

The ARC5 Students' Forum will take place on 4-7 April 2016. The Forum includes plenary and working group sessions, as well as skills and knowledge workshops. The students will jointly develop Policy Recommendations, which will be handed over to the ARC5 Rectors and the ASEM Ministers of Education at the ASEM ME6 in Korea in 2017.

To ensure close linkages between the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum, four Rectors will attend the Students' Forum as Mentors.

Additional elements of the ARC5 Students' Forum:

**Online Survey:** Through the Open Call, an online survey is conducted on students' perspectives on employability skills, university-business partnerships and applicants' experiences. The online survey results will be presented at the Conference and shared online.

**Online Preparatory Phase:** Selected participants will join an online preparatory phase which precedes the ARC5 Students' Forum for in-depth preparation and understanding of the selected topic.

### 2. ARC5 Rectors' Conference

The ARC5 Rectors' Conference will take place on 6-8 April 2016. The Rectors' Conference also includes plenary and working group sessions, as well as provide for networking opportunities between rectors, students and businesses through unconventional concepts such as a human library. The Policy Recommendations developed by the Rectors will be handed over to the ASEM Ministers of Education at the ASEM ME6 in Korea in 2017.

During the Opening Ceremony and the first Plenary Session of the ARC5 Rectors' Conference, the ARC5 Students' Forum participants will be invited to not only learn from highly acknowledged speakers, but also present the Policy Recommendations developed during the ARC5 Students' Forum. Four student participants will participate throughout the rest of the programme of the ARC5 Rectors' Conference.

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## OBJECTIVES

ARC5 aims to:

- Develop and contribute with 2 sets of Policy Recommendations developed from the Rectors as well as the Students to the [6th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting \(ASEM ME6\)](#) (2017, Korea)
- Propose and implement ASEM perspectives on higher education's responsibilities in advancing socio-economic development
- Promote ASEM education cooperation among civil society stakeholders and reinforce their role in the official ASEM Education Process
- Strengthen the dialogue among ASEM education stakeholders by creating linkages between universities, the business and industry sector, governments and local communities
- Stimulate partnerships among universities across ASEM countries

## Co-organised by

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The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. ASEF is a not-for-profit intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 650 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 17,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)



UNIVERSITAS CAROLINA  
PRAGENSIS

Founded in 1348, **Charles University** is one of the oldest European universities. With its 17 facilities and 3 university institutes, over 51,000 students and over 800 staff members, among them over 4600 in academia and research, it is a leading research university that combines high-quality science, research and education on both a global and national scale.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cuni.cz/UKEN-1.html>

## In the Framework of

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The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 53 members: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Viet Nam plus the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union.

For more information, please visit [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)