

**Remarks by
Amb. Nguyen Quoc Khanh
Deputy Executive Director of the Asia Europe Foundation**

*(on the occasion of the ASEM LLL Hub's Conference on "Unlimited Learning",
Copenhagen, Denmark 29-30 May 2012)*

H.E. Ms Christine Antorini, Minister of Children and Education of Denmark,

H.E. Mr Kim Kwan-Bok Deputy Minister of Human Resource Policy of Korea,

Prof. Jan Ifversen, Vice-Dean for Knowledge Exchange, Aarhus University,

Distinguished Guests, Speakers and Participants,

It is my great honour and privilege to represent the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) at the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning Conference on "Learning Unlimited". Allow me, first of all to extend ASEF's thanks to Denmark and its Aarhus University for their wonderful arrangement of this important meeting and the very warm hospitality.

It is also of great significance that the event is being held in Denmark which has been a strong supporter of ASEM LLL Hub and is now holding the EU presidency. Also on this rostrum I wish to convey to all the participants and distinguished speakers the warm welcome and best wishes from ASEF.

Dear Participants,

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) was established in 1997, one year after the first ASEM Leaders Summit held in Bangkok in 1996, with the mandate to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe.

Since then ASEF implemented about 500 projects (engaging over 17,000 direct participants) aimed at strengthening cooperation between and among education and academic institutions, youth and cultural organisations as well as partnering and consulting with a diverse set of stakeholders in ASEM countries (political and opinion leaders, NGOs, business, media and NGOs).

This year as ASEF celebrates its 15th birthday (Anniversary), ***Education*** remains one of the key pillars of ASEF's actions and partnerships in order to fulfil its mission.

In accordance with this conviction, ASEF supports the work of the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub). The strategic partnership between ASEF and the ASEM LLL Hub goes back to 2007 and it continues to be strong despite the constraints and challenges along the way.

Both ASEF and the ASEM LLL Hub are very much involved in the *ASEM education process* which brings together policy makers and civil society stakeholders in the education field. Specifically, ASEM LLL Hub had

been consistent in providing research based policy recommendations to the ASEM Ministers for Education since the process started in 2008.

Learning Unlimited

Our theme for today and tomorrow is Learning Unlimited, which is actually a paraphrase of Lifelong Learning. Some of the key words that come to one's mind are boundless, infinite, bottomless, unrestrained learning.

You may be curious to know that when you type Learning Unlimited on Google, it results to 180M entries. The first entry is a movement of college students teaching high school students ***everything*** and ***anything*** (<http://learningu.org/about/who-we-are>)

UNESCO Report *Learning to be*. One of the basic assumptions stated in the UNESCO Report Learning to Be is: the aim of development is the complete fulfillment of man, in all the richness of his personality, the complexity of his forms of expression and his various commitments – as individual, member of a family and of a community, citizen and producer, inventor of techniques and creative dreamer'.¹

Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014). The vision of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/delors/ltobe.htm>

education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation.²

The “ideal of unlimited learning” is now widely accepted as vital for the achievement of sustainable societies. In fact, I am certain that all of us here today, are champions of the said ideal.

This Forum provides for us an opportunity to find answers to the crucial questions identified by the organisers.

Hopefully, putting our brains and hearts together, we can try to think afresh, explore new ways and innovative approaches, and in the process, renew our commitment to this important undertaking.

In conclusion, may I once again reiterate ASEF's high appreciation of the Government of Denmark through her Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Children and Education and the Aarhus University for their support and for making this ASEM LLL event possible.

May I also wish all speakers and participants very productive deliberations and discussions; and enjoyable days in beautiful Copenhagen.

Thank you for your kind attention!

² <http://www.desd.org/About%20ESD.htm>