



Model ASEM

Switzerland Spin-off 2017

On the occasion of the „Asia meets Europe Day“

1 March 2017 in Lausanne, Switzerland

Chair's Address of the Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off 2017¹

A stronger partnership for future generations

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

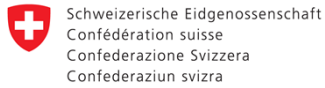
1. More than 20 years after the establishment of the Asia-Europe Meeting, we are honoured to have you with us on the occasion of the first “Asia Meets Europe Day” and the first Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off. Earlier today, 60 young university students from all over Switzerland gathered and debated – in the shoes of political leaders – on the topic of “a stronger partnership for future generations”.
2. The debate was fruitful and constructive, upholding the ASEM spirit of equal partnership, mutual respect, and mutual benefit.
3. The Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off Leaders noted with appreciation the outcomes of the 11th ASEM Summit held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in July 2016 and reaffirmed the importance of increasing the visibility of ASEM. They also stressed the necessity of promoting the involvement of civil society – and especially youth – in the interest of strengthening the ties between Asia and Europe and fostering friendship between our people.
4. The Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off Leaders raised 14 major points across the three pillars of ASEM – political, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation.

¹ As Model ASEM is a simulation-based project, the points listed in the Chair's Statement and this Chair's Address do not necessarily correspond with the positions of the organisers or the youth participants.

5. Of particular interest to the youth was the importance of addressing traditional and non-traditional security threats – including cyber security and terrorism – through partnership and cooperation, and through sharing of best practices across the regions. The youth further recognized the impact of innovative technologies and advocated the promotion thereof.
6. Moreover, the youth reiterated their support for combatting climate change and investing in mitigation and adaptation strategies in the spirit of cooperation between the regions and on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities.
7. The Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off Leaders also emphasized their wish for inclusive and equitable quality education and urged all partners to increase their efforts to make such provisions available to all members of society, noting the special role of digitalization in bridging geographical distances and increasing access to quality education and vocational training. They also supported increased exchange programmes between Asia and Europe and scholarship opportunities for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society
8. With our statement, we hope to convey the key concerns of the younger generation. We live in an increasingly complex world, where exponentially developing technology abolishes traditional boundaries between our countries, permitting unprecedented opportunities yet also presenting novel challenges.
9. So we wish to express again our gratefulness to the Swiss FDFA, the DiploFoundation, EPFL, MUN EPFL and ASEF for this unique opportunity to get together and tackle the societal and political challenges of our generation.
10. Thank you

Organisers and Supporters of the Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off 2017

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