



# Higher education cooperation in the framework of EU cooperation policy towards Asia – lessons learned and perspectives

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The current context:

Higher education as a priority area  
for regional cooperation

## Asia-Link activities



EuropeAid

## Partnership Projects

- Projects can cover one or more of the following areas:
  - Human Resource Development
  - Curriculum Development
  - Institutions & Systems Development
- Method: call for proposals from Asia-EU consortia of universities
- EC funding per project: € 200.000 - € 750.000 (EC contribution: 75% - 90%)



## Partnership projects



EuropeAid

### To date (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 Calls)

- 1338 applications received, involving 4600 institutions
- 175 projects selected, involving 820 institutions
- € 65 million EC funding
- 46 projects with Vietnamese institutions



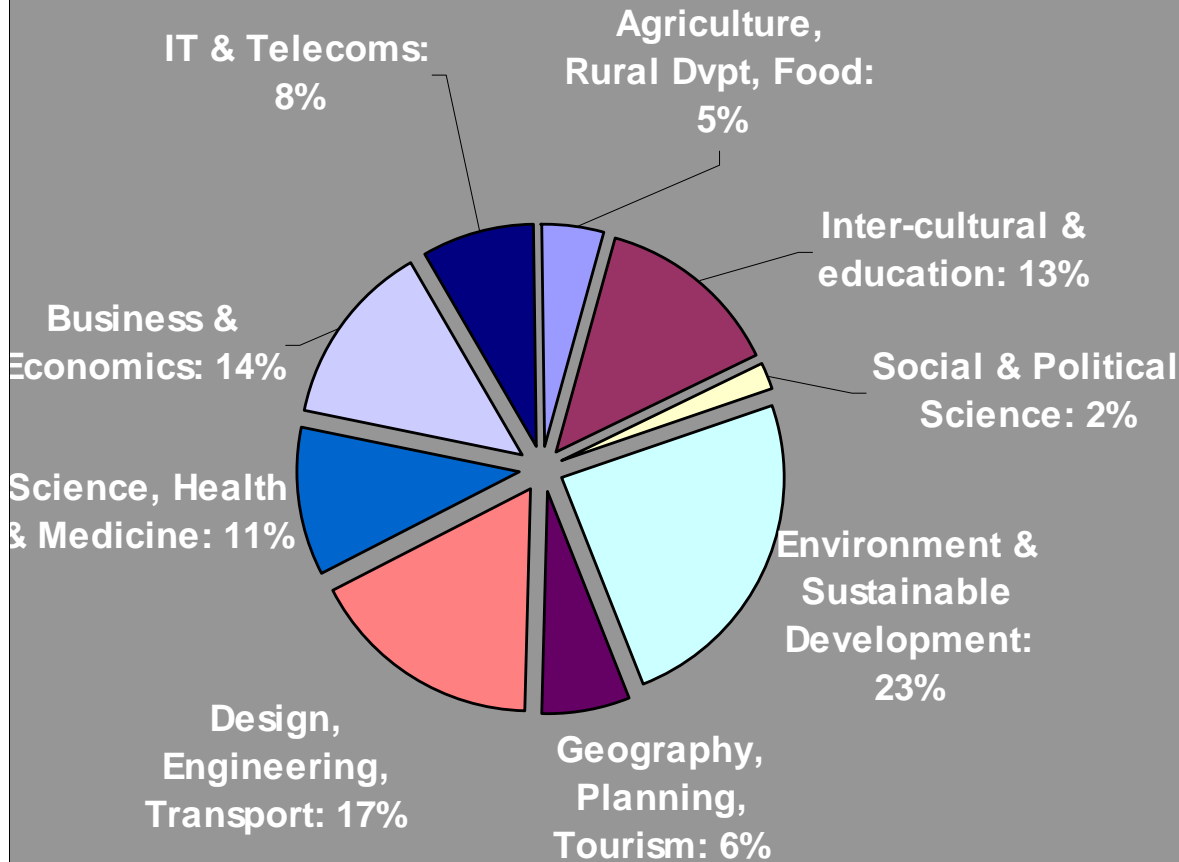
# Partnership projects



EuropeAid

## 155 Asia-Link projects by theme

(Calls 1 - 4)



## Asia-Link: lessons learned (1)



EuropeAid

### Programme evaluations, 2004 & 2006

- **Relevance of projects**

- relevant to national and regional priorities
- important to the universities.

- **Sustainability of projects**

- Networks in over 85% of projects will last "to a considerable degree" after project end.

- **Effectiveness of projects**

- 70% of projects scored 9 or 10 out of 10 for effectiveness.

- **Impact of projects outside partnerships**

- Wider range of stakeholders outside the immediate project partnership
- Projects well-based in the national economy that their results are to serve.



## Asia-Link: lessons learned (2)



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### Impact and relevance of programme

- Projects are increasing Asian interest in European HE sector and its reforms
- The "brand name" is well-established
- Networks complementary to scholarship programmes.

### Importance of the partnership approach, and transfer of experience

- valuable for project ownership, strengthens EU-Asia mutual understanding
- a number of projects focus on inter-cultural partnerships and working together over distance.
- regional value added through partnerships across Asian borders and regions



# ASEAN-EU University Network Programme (AUNP)

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Agreement between EC and ASEAN University Network (AUN)

- 20 Partnership projects (EU and ASEAN partners)
  - Common Applied Research
  - Human Resource Development
  - Curriculum Development
- Networking activities
  - ASEAN-EU Rectors' Conferences; Round Table Meetings; national and regional workshops
- 2006 final evaluation:
  - "Improved ASEAN-EU and ASEAN-ASEAN HE relationship"
  - "University linkages frequently extended to other cooperative activities and exchanges"



## The future context: 2007 - 2010

# Future framework for EU-Asia higher education cooperation 2007 onwards

## New legal basis

- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
- Asia Regional programming document (2007-2013)

## New Asia-wide strategy and policy

- 1. Sub-regional Cooperation and Dialogues
  - ASEM, ASEAN, SAARC
- 2. Specific Multi-country Programmes
  - Avian influenza, Uprooted people
- 3. Asia-Wide Programmes
  - Environment
  - **Higher education**

# Higher Education: a priority for EU-Asia regional cooperation

Benita Ferrero-Waldner,  
European Commissioner for External Relations:

*In today's global economy and knowledge-based society, promoting international cooperation and mobility between higher education institutions in the EU and other countries is a win-win situation. It contributes to the mutual enrichment of nations and to a better understanding among people. It supports economic and social development. And it builds bridges between societies, creates friendships and deepens links between people.*



## A new programme for EU-Asia higher education cooperation, 2007-2010: Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window

### Key objectives

- Develop Asian higher education and thereby contribute to overall economic and social development
- Help Asian universities raise academic standards and cope with increased and evolving demand
- Invest in human resources from undergraduate to post-doctoral level

### Key activities

- Mobility schemes at undergraduate to post-doctoral level
- Long-term institutional partnerships between EU-Asian universities



# Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window

## Budget:

- €90 million for Asia region during 2007-10
- Specific budget for China €20 million during 2009-10
- Specific budget for India €20 million during 2008-2010

## Timing

- Launch call for proposals: 5 December 2007
- Applications to be submitted by consortia of universities (Asia and EU; up to 20 universities per consortium)
- Results known by 1 June 2008
- Mobility grants to be awarded for academic year 2008-9



# Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window

## Selection of projects

- Guided by country-specific priority sectors and development goals
- Guided by need to have a balanced participation across Asian countries, with priority for least developed and low income countries

## Selection of grant holders

- By the university consortia
- Take account of social equity, disadvantaged groups

# Other programmes for EU-Asia higher education and research cooperation

## 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for RTD

- Joint research projects
- Individual research mobility: Marie Curie Programme
- Funded by EU research budget

## Research-Information society

- Trans Eurasian Information Network (TEIN)
- Connecting researchers in Asia and between Asia and Europe
- Purpose: data exchange, collaborative research, applications (e.g. tele-medicine, e-learning)
- Funded by EU development cooperation budget



# Other programmes for EU-Asia higher education and research cooperation

## European Higher Education Fairs and Symposia

- In seven Asian countries during Nov. 2006-Oct. 2008
- Goal: raise awareness of higher education exchange possibilities
- Funded by EU development cooperation budget

## EU-Asia Higher Education Platform

- Dialogue on topics of common interest, e.g. quality assurance, credit transfer, university management
- Starts in February 2008
- Funded by EU development cooperation budget

# Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

- Funded by the EU and by donations from member countries
- Promotes cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchanges between Asia and Europe
  - **Intellectual Exchange programme**
    - Includes education, science and technology (academic co-operation, Asia-Europe Environment Forum)
  - **Cultural Exchange programme**
  - **People-to-People Exchange programme**
    - Includes educational exchanges (ASEF Universities, Asia Europe Education Hub ...),
  - **Public Affairs programme**



## More information

EuropeAid

Website of EuropeAid Co-operation Office  
European Commission  
[www.ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid](http://www.ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid)

