



Scientific Conference on Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity
SINGAPORE, FEBRUARY 26-28, 2020
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Background

Connectivity between Asia and Europe is high on the policy agenda of the 51 Asian and European countries members of the [Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#). Connectivity is about bringing countries, people and societies closer together. It spans physical, economic, financial and people-to-people links, and should contribute to the materialization of the principles, goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In line with ASEM's policy agenda, the [ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal](#) was launched in 2018 to assess sustainable connectivity levels in ASEM member countries. The Portal not only brings together a wealth of data on the links between ASEM countries, but it also enables assessing the relationship between connectivity and the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of Asia and Europe.

Scientific Conference

AESCON (Asia-Europe Sustainable CONnectivity) is the first scientific conference on Asia-Europe sustainable connectivity, bringing together researchers and policy analysts working in the field of international connectivity, globalization and their impacts on sustainable development, with a particular focus on Asia-Europe connections. At a time of increasing connectivity, the conference aims to provide an academic forum to discuss global challenges on transport infrastructure, energy transition, climate change, digital economy, trade and investment flows, security, people mobility, cultural exchanges, among others.

The conference will be used as an open platform for debate on sustainable connectivity, to spur future research linked to policy needs and to build a network of Asia-Europe researchers working on sustainable connectivity.



Organisation

The conference is an international collaboration, jointly organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Italy, the The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in Singapore, The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Indonesia, and the Center for China and Globalization in China. It will be steered by a scientific committee of leading academics from European and Asian countries. Further organisational partners may be added.

AESCON will take place on February 26-28, 2020, at the ASEF headquarters in Singapore.

Call for abstracts and key dates

The call for abstracts will open on June 15, where researchers are invited to submit abstracts of original research on connectivity topics such as transport, energy, digital economy, political and institutional links, trade, education, research, cultural exchanges, and security, among others. Connectivity research should be linked and contextualised with sustainable development goals, with preference given to work focusing on Asia-Europe connections. The ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal will be a focal point of the conference, and researchers are highly encouraged to use the data therein.

Key dates are as follows:

Call for abstracts:	June 15 – August 31, 2019
Deadline for submission of extended abstract:	December 31, 2019
Registration opens:	October 15, 2019
Conference dates:	February 26 – 28, 2020

