It is my pleasure to say Selamat Datang (Welcome) to university students, biodiversity researchers and nature activists of all ASEM countries to a pilot scheme Asia-Europe Institute - ASEM Summer Camp (AEI-ASC). Indeed, I extend this warm welcome to all friends in ASEM who would like to promote more actively the cooperation between Asia and Europe.

AEI, University of Malaya, deeply appreciates and welcomes the decision by ASEMME 4 held in May 2013 whereby AEI is to make proposals which would increase the flow of European students to Asia towards promoting balanced mobility. It has been recognized that the desired flows would depend on more European students seeing and understanding Asia, hence the pilot-scheme AEI-ASC.

AEI and the Ministry of Education Malaysia, have made it their responsibility to ensure that the AEI-ASC be educational, exciting and as cost-beneficial as possible:

- On the first AEI-ASC slated for August 2016 with the theme “Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage” participants would visit Putrajaya, the Administrative Capital to savour Malaysia’s federal administrative culture, visit Melaka as the origin of Malay Sultanate and Malaysia’s foreign relations, and do jungle trekking (at night, for the brave-hearted) at Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya Ulu Gombak Camp... and much more.

- On the second AEI-ASC slated for August 2016 with the theme “Enhancing Asia-Europe Relations” participants would also see some aspects of the first AEI-ASC plus the workings of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) and the dynamics of ASEAN cooperation.

As had been mentioned by the representative of AEI at the meeting in Hangzhou in May 2014, we would hope and very much welcome as many of Asian universities as possible to be hosts of ASEM Summer Camp. We would also very much welcome as many of European universities as possible to be partners in what could be an exciting initiative of ASEM.

With support from all of ASEM members, the alumni of AEI-ASC can perhaps look forward to having a great ‘AEI-ASC Jamboree’ of cultural understanding and friendship with the prospect of having new academic programmes established at AEI which would help promote balanced mobility.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. MD NASRUDIN MD AKHIR
Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute
University of Malaya
PILOT PROJECT: 
AEI - ASEM SUMMER CAMP (AEI-ASC) 
2ND-16TH AUGUST 2015 
BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

DAY 0: 2nd August, (Sunday)  
- Arrivals  
- Registration / Organizational briefing at ASEM Room, AEI

DAY 1: 3rd August, (Monday)  
9.00am - Welcome remarks by Executive Director AEI  
10.00am - Module 1: Trends in Malaysian Foreign Relations  
This deals with the different phases of Malaysia’s foreign relations starting with its pre-Independence era (under British rule) to the establishment of ASEAN as the strategy for regional peace and security.  
2.00pm - Module 2: Sustainable Forest Management and Timber Certification  
This is a matter of international interest. Malaysia’s commitment is interalia demonstrated by its initiative on Timber Certification, a sub-set of Sustainable Forest Management, which has been implemented 15 years ago working as partner to the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification, Geneva.  
4.00pm - Campus tour/Visit to Rimba Ilmu ("Knowledge Forest")

DAY 2: 4th August, (Tuesday)  
9.00am - Soft-skills exercises; spontaneity and right word selection  
11.00am - Module 3: Management of Marine Parks & their Importance  
Life depends upon the aquatic ecosystems which provide carbon processing capabilities, temperature adjustment and house the majority of organisms vital to our existence.  
2.00pm - Visit to National Museum

DAY 3: 5th August, (Wednesday)  
9.00am - Module 4: Introduction to Malaysia’s Culture and Traditions  
This provides an understanding of the cultures and traditions reflecting Malaysia’s diverse ethnicity. A focus on social, political and economic trends will be presented.  
11.00am - Soft-skills: Personality traits

DAY 4: 6th August, (Thursday)  
9.00am - Visit to Putrajaya, Administrative Capital  
Module 5: Putrajaya and Vision 2020  
1.30pm - Tour of Putrajaya

DAY 5: 7th August, (Friday)  
9.00am - Visit to Forestry Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong  
10.00am - Module 6: The Flora and Fauna of Peninsular Malaysia  
This module would focus on Peninsular Malaysia and evaluates the wealth of natural resources which help to maintain Malaysia’s biodiversity.  
2.00pm - Field tour of FRIM
DAY 6: 8th August, (Saturday)
9.00am - Module 7: Culinary Traditions and Cultural Ties in Malaysia
This presents some of the historical background and social insights on Malaysia's traditional dishes which arise from the various ethnic groups.
1.00pm - Field tour of FRIM

DAY 7: 9th August, (Sunday)
9.00am - Board bus from UM Campus and depart for State of Melaka
11.30am - Visit a Malay kampong
2.00pm - Arrive at Ayer Keroh town, Melaka
Check-in at Ayer Keroh

DAY 8: 10th August, (Monday)
9.00am - Module 8: Melaka and Cultural Heritage
Melaka (besides Penang) is a remarkable example of a historic town on the Strait of Malacca. Portraying a successism of cultural influence resulting from its trading past day linking East and West. The convergence of the Malays, Indians, Chinese and Europeans had created a unique architecture and townscape.
10.00am - Tour of Melaka City

DAY 9: 11th August, (Tuesday)
9.00am - Board bus and proceed to Port Dickson by the old coastal road
2.30pm - Module 9: Minangkabau Traditions
The Minang comprise a majority of the state of Negeri Sembilan. As descendents from the Minangkabau people of West Sumatra, Indonesia, the Minang of Malaysia is a matriarchal society with a distinct culture and their own royal line dating several centuries back.

DAY 10: 12th August, (Wednesday)
10.00am - Board bus and return to Kuala Lumpur

DAY 11: 13th August, (Thursday)
9.00am - Module 10: Bio-Computing
This introduces an emerging field that involves computer development based on biological systems. Bio-computers resemble silicon computer systems in the areas of data storage, retrieval, and processing.
11.00am - Soft-skills: Leadership and Communication

DAY 12: 14th August, (Friday)
9.00am - Visit to Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia
- Visit Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur
- Petronas Twin Towers
- Handicraft Centre

DAY 13: 15th August, (Saturday)
9.00am - Module 11: ASEAN Community 2015
Drawing on the economic, political-security and socio-cultural community blueprints from 2009-2015, the regional bloc's achievements will be examined from these three dimensions with the view to enhancing further the regioncohesiveness.
11.30am - A Roundtable: "ASEM Summer Camp: Moving Forward"
Farewell remark by the Executive Director of AEI

DAY 14: 16th August, (Sunday)
- Free Departures
INVITATION TO BE 
PARTNERS IN A PILOT 
PROJECT AEI-ASEM 
SUMMER CAMP

Dear Representatives and Colleagues of 
ASEM member countries,

The 4th ASEM Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4) held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2013 had among others, welcomed the willingness of Malaysia and its Asia-Europe Institute of the University of Malaya to develop, in cooperation with other interested ASEM members, a strategy for a better balanced mobility of students, academicians and researchers between Asia and Europe. The strategy would include proposals for complete activities that would draw more students, academics and researchers to Asia.

In response to this decision of ASEMME 4, the Ministry of Education Malaysia, in collaboration with the Asia-Europe Institute, is organising the Asia-Europe Institute - ASEM Summer Camp (AEI-ASC), the first of which will commence in August 2015. The AEI-ASC is a themed two-week programme consisting of a series of lectures, followed by relevant field trips. The theme for the first AEI-ASC is “Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage” to run in August 2015. The first theme together with a second one on “Enhancing Asia-Europe Relations” will be held in summer of 2016.

As it is appropriate that the ASC would be an enhancement of the cooperation amongst ASEM members, it is with pleasure that we invite ASEM institutions and relevant agencies to partner us in this project in the following ways:

A Asian ASEM institutions may like to host one or two ASC in their own country perhaps in collaboration with any academic or non-academic institutions;

B European ASEM institutions may like to collaborate with us (AEI) and/or other Asian host institutions in helping to promote and nominate participants to the ASC from among their students, and/or interested groups and associates.

We sincerely welcome and greatly appreciate your cooperation and participation in the common interest of promoting further the ASEM global community and balanced mobility.

With best wishes,

Executive Director, AEI, UM

AEI reserves the right to make changes to the programme whenever it deems necessary without prior notice.