



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
NATIONAL AGENCY FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

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27 February 2012

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To : All ASEM Partners  
ASEF Executive Director

Cc : ASEM SOM Contact Points

**Subject: Invitation to participate in the ASEM Language Diversity Forum (ASEM LDF)  
in Jakarta, 4-5 September 2012**

Dear ASEM Partners,

As announced in the ASEM Senior Official Meeting in Tokyo, October 2011, the National Agency for Language Development, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia is organizing the ASEM Language Diversity Forum (ASEM LDF) entitled "Safeguarding and Promoting Language Diversity in Asia and Europe towards Sustainable Development" which will take place in Jakarta, 4-5 September 2012 .

This Forum aims at exchanging experiences and points of view on questions related to the promotion of multilingualism and linguistic diversity, including the safeguarding of endangered languages in Asia and Europe. It is meant to be an open platform for discussions between officials, decision-makers and experts active in the field of language and culture. As suggested by the Steering Committee Meeting<sup>1</sup>, the discussion in the ASEM LDF will comprise of four sessions with the following topics:

- i. Language diversity policies and issues in Asia and Europe.
- ii. Exchange of best practices in safeguarding and promoting language and cultural diversity in Asia and Europe.
- iii. Strategies in protecting and promoting language diversity in relation to sustainable economic development in Asia and Europe.
- iv. The role of media and ICT in safeguarding and promoting language diversity in Asia and Europe.

It is estimated that around half of 6.000-7000 languages spoken across the world are currently in danger of disappearing in the foreseeable future. Given the role and experience of Asia and Europe in the field of cultural diversity, it is timely to make use of ASEM cooperation to examine both the opportunities and the challenges of policy making in safeguarding language diversity in the region.

The urgency of taking necessary measures to protect the diversity of cultural expressions especially in situations where cultural expressions may be threatened by the possibility of extinction

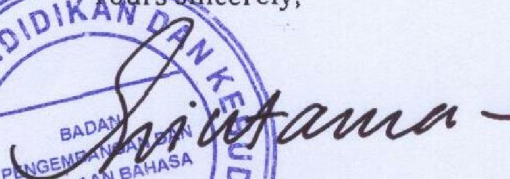
<sup>1</sup> The Steering Committee Meeting for ASEM Language Diversity Forum was convened in Bali, 28-29 November 2011, and attended by representatives from France, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR (observer), and Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

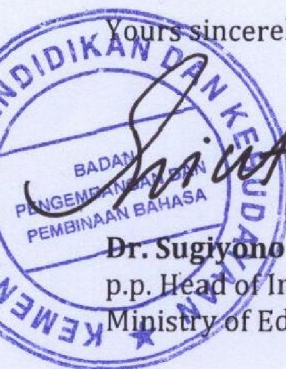
Therefore, I am pleased to invite you to take part in this Forum and call upon interested ASEM Partners to nominate a speaker from your respective country to share their expertise in one of the above-mentioned topics. Kindly find enclosed the background paper and administrative arrangements for your consideration.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Sugiyono**  
p.p. Head of Indonesian National Agency for Language Development  
Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia



The stamp is circular with a double border. The outer ring contains the text 'KEMENDIKBUD' at the bottom and 'INDONESIA' at the top. The inner ring contains 'BADAN PENGEMBANGAN DAN PEMBINAAN BAHASA'.

Annex:

Background paper, Administrative circular and registration form  
ASEM Language Diversity Forum