



ASO ATTENDS ASEM SUMMIT

Prime Minister Taro Aso attended the Seventh Asia-Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM 7) in Beijing on October 24 and 25. The ASEM Summit is held every two years.

On the morning of October 24, prior to the opening of the ASEM 7 Summit, Prime Minister Aso attended an informal breakfast meeting with the leaders of ASEAN+3 countries. There he stressed that in order to achieve sustainable development in the ASEAN+3 nations, their transformation in the mid to long term to economies that produce autonomous growth,

a further liberalization of trade and investment, and support for ASEAN integration were important.

After the breakfast meeting, Prime Minister Aso had bilateral meetings with President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea, and Premier Wen Jiabao as well as President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China.

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Aso attended a reception to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan



FACING: The leaders at the Seventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 7) Summit Meeting. • **ABOVE:** The summit leaders pose for a group photograph. • **BELOW:** Prime Minister Taro Aso and President Hu Jintao of China shake hands.

and the People's Republic of China. He next met Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Federal Republic of Germany. This was followed by the opening ceremony of ASEM 7. During the first session covering the international economic and financial situation, Prime Minister Aso highlighted the role of international organizations such as the IMF and the need to strengthen regional cooperation within Asia. These views received support from other leaders.

At the session on global issues held on October 25 Prime Minister Aso discussed issues related to food and countermeasures against climate change with the other leaders. Afterwards, he met Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani of Pakistan, and then attended



PHOTOS: JUI

the session on sustainable development. On climate change, Prime Minister Aso called for the creation of a framework in which all major emitters are included, for the establishment of emissions reduction targets which are calculated through a bottom-up, sector-by-sector approach (e.g. industry sector), and for cooperation with developing countries.

Discussions on regional issues were held at the working lunch that followed. At that lunch, Prime Minister Aso called for support in order to achieve an early resolution of the nuclear and abduction issues concerning North Korea, and gained understanding on this from other leaders.

In the afternoon, following talks with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, Prime Minister Aso attended the session on dialogue among cultures and civilizations. Later, he held talks with President Nicolas Sarkozy of France. Based on the results of the various sessions held during the two-day summit, the Chair's Statement was issued at the conclusion of ASEM 7.

ON THE INTERNET

http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/asophoto/2008/10/24asem_e.html

http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/asophoto/2008/10/25asem_e.html