As a curtain raiser to ASEF’s 20th Anniversary in 2017, we launched an open call to invite our social media supporters to get involved in our effort to create a tagline for ASEF. By contest close, we were delighted to receive 664 entries from 38 ASEM countries, comprising 79% Asians and 15% Europeans.

A panel of 3 judges reviewed the entries. It comprised the Executive Director, Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, and 2 brand marketers and communications veterans, Mr. Bill ANG from Billang Consulting, and Mr. Danny LYE, erstwhile General Manager of FITCH Singapore.

The judges picked 5 top entries and after considerable brainstorming, distilled these ideas into a simple and succinct statement: *Diversity Creates*.

“It is brief and simple, and hints of a mature confidence that promises great possibilities.

“Creates” is an active word, easy to associate, and evokes positive emotions. The first 20 years of ASEF history was about establishing itself, setting the norms, and performing its role. As it grows into its 3rd decade, ASEF will build on past achievements, while harnessing the collective energies of staff and stakeholders to connect the people and institutions of Asia and Europe. It will create even bigger dreams, greater collaboration, and new pathways.

The diversity of Asia and Europe offers rich possibilities to create connections. Diversity defines ASEF’s work and celebrates ASEF’s character, and will continue to be its driving force into the future.”

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) – Where Diversity Creates
ASEF Themes

**Culture**
ASEF promotes various forms of cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe, including policy dialogue, bi-regional networks and artistic collaborations. It fosters sustainable partnerships between Asian and European arts organisations, while also facilitating dialogue between the arts sector and government agencies responsible for culture.

**Education**
ASEF has set in motion projects which contribute to education policy dialogue and facilitate youth networks. Through interdisciplinary and pragmatic approaches, ASEF’s education projects strengthen collaboration between education institutions and exchanges among young people, academics and educators. In doing so, ASEF directly links these key players in education to the ASEF Education Process and ASEF Leaders’ Meetings.

**Governance**
Respect for human rights, rule of law, effective participation, and accountability of public institutions are some areas that lay the foundation for good governance. ASEF encourages informal, open and non-confrontational dialogue between government and civil society representatives in this field, through its current project series on human rights and public diplomacy.

**Sustainable Development**
Since its inception, ASEF has initiated several dialogue platforms on sustainable development and climate change issues in Asia and Europe. Reflecting priorities of the ASEM Process and needs from stakeholders at international, regional, and national levels, ASEF’s programmes in this field focus on contributing to the global debate on the 2030 Agenda and climate change policy.

**Economy**
ASEF addresses current economic issues and long-term trends impacting Asian and European societies in line with ASEF’s political and economic agenda concerning the international financial and economic situation across ASEM constituencies. ASEF’s contribution focuses on economic policy coordination across Asia and Europe, international trade and investment as well as sustainable growth.

**Public Health**
The ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza was launched in 2009 by ASEM leaders to combat avian influenza and possible human influenza pandemics. ASEF’s work in the area of Public Health is designed to achieve 2 objectives of the ASEM Initiative: to create a platform for enhanced collaboration on public health issues across Asia and Europe, and to maintain a stockpile of anti-viral drugs and personal protective equipment.
The Board of Governors of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) consists of 53 members appointed by the respective partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). The Board reviews the Foundation’s strategy and policies, ensuring their adherence to ASEM’s principles and priorities. It also oversees ASEF’s finances and budgeting, and approves its activity portfolio. The Board members elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair on an annual basis and select a new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director every 4 years. In both cases one is Asian and the other European to ensure a balanced representation of the two regions. The Board also comprises an Executive Committee (ExCo) and a Finance & Administration Committee (FAC), each with an equal Asian and European membership.

List of ASEF Governors (as at 31 March 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASEAN Secretariat</th>
<th>Ambassador Hirubalan V P</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Mr Adrian LOCHRIN</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Ms Gabriele MÉON-TSCHÜRTZ</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Mr Chiranjib SARKER</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Ambassador Gerard COCKX</td>
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<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>Dr Adnan JAAFA</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>Cyprus</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Ambassador Professor Jørgen Ørstrøm MØLLER</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Professor Rein RAUD</td>
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<td>European Union</td>
<td>Dr Steven EVERTS, Ambassador Michael MATTHIESSEN (until October 2016)</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
<td>Ms Eva BIAUDET</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Ambassador Claude BLANCHEMAISON</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Professor Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
<td>Ambassador Dr Sotirios MOUSOURIS</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>High Commissioner Jawed ASHRAF</td>
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<td>High Commissioner Ms Vijay Thakur SINGH (until October 2016)</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Ambassador Takahiro SHINYO (until January 2016)</td>
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<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Ambassador Usen A. SULEIMEN</td>
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<td>Ambassador Yerlan BAUDARBEK-KOZHATAYEV (until April 2016)</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Mr Songkane LUANGMUNINTHONE</td>
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<td>Mr Khonepheng THAMMAVONG (until March 2016)</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Ms Daiga UPENIECE</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Ambassador Eglidijus MEILŪNAS</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Ambassador Robert GOBBELS</td>
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<td>Dr Jacques F. POOS (until February 2016)</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>High Commissioner Dato’ Husni Zai YAACOB</td>
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<td>Malta</td>
<td>Dr Carmen SAMMUT</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Ambassador TUMUR Lkhagvadorj</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Ambassador Htay AUNG</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Ambassador Tormod Cappelen ENGRESEN</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>High Commissioner Tanveer Akhtar KHASKHELI (until January 2016)</td>
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<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Ambassador Antonio A. MORALES</td>
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<td>Ambassador Rosario G. MANALO (until January 2016)</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Ambassador Zenon KOSINIAK-KAMYSZ</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Ambassador Andrey TATARINOV</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Professor Leo TAN Wee Hin</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Ambassador Radomír BOHÁČ</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Ms Janja KLASINC</td>
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<td>Dr Marjan CENCEN (until March 2016)</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Mr Ramón GONZÁLEZ</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Ms Kamilla LINDSTRÖM</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>High Commissioner Scott WIGHTMAN</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>Ambassador NGUYEN Nguyet Nºga</td>
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<td>Ambassador LE Cong Phung (until February 2016)</td>
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Chair’s Message

ASEF has steered its projects in a more sustainable and inclusive direction, building on its ample past experience, valuable feedback from participants and experts, as well as the findings of independent evaluations.

First let me thank my predecessor and friend, the former Chair of the ASEF Board of Governors, Ambassador Vijay Thakur SINGH, for her excellent work. I hope to carry it forward with the support of ASEF’s new Vice-Chair, Ambassador TUMUR Lkhagvadorj from Mongolia.

I would also like to thank Ambassador ZHANG Yan, who successfully completed his 4-year tenure as ASEF’s Executive Director in October 2016. And I extend a warm welcome to ASEF’s 7th Executive Director, Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE from Germany and to the new Deputy Executive Director, Mr SUN Xiangyang from China. I have no doubt that under their leadership, ASEF will attain new heights.

The year 2016 has been significant for both the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in many ways. ASEM celebrated its 20th anniversary. Leaders and their representatives from the 53 ASEM Partners participated in the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) held from 15-16 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. ASEF contributed to this significant milestone of ASEM through a variety of projects and publications, which have been highly acknowledged by the ASEM Leaders and further enhanced ASEF’s relevance and visibility.

I am particularly delighted to see that ASEF has steered its projects in a more sustainable and inclusive direction, building on its ample past experience, valuable feedback from participants and experts, as well as the findings of independent evaluations.

ASEF’s wide array of work and achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of its stakeholders, particularly the ASEM governments, ASEF’s partners and participants, and, just as importantly, my fellow ASEF Governors and the highly dedicated ASEF Governors and the ASEF management. I also commend the entire ASEF team for their hard work and commitment to bringing together the people and institutions of Asia and Europe.

As ASEF celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2017, we look forward to even more robust and inclusive projects and participatory processes in honing our vision and realising our goals. I am confident that ASEF will be able to contribute to a deeper Asian-European relationship that meets a wide diversity of expectations and aspirations.

Ms Eva BIAUDET (Finland)
Chair, ASEF Board of Governors
Our projects in the areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health have served to strengthen the human connectivity and dialogue between the civil societies and governments in and between Asia and Europe.

Looking back, 2016 has been another fruitful and a special year for the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). As the only permanently established institution under the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process, we contributed to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of ASEM and the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) that took place in July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. We have also undergone the regular replacement of ASEF’s top management: I assumed office on 1 November 2016 and the new Deputy Executive Director, Mr SUN Xiangyang, was selected in December.

Our projects in the areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health have served to strengthen the human connectivity and dialogue between the civil societies and governments in and between Asia and Europe. Throughout 2016, ASEF has conducted more than 30 projects consisting of about 120 activities in 33 ASEM countries. These projects and activities have engaged more than 100 partner organisations in Asia and Europe, and over 8,000 participants and audience members. In addition, through our various channels and tools of online communication and outreach, we have reached 1.2 million of unique visitors and e-newsletter subscribers.

The 20th ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU20) under the theme of “Gateways to Asia and Europe: Connectivity by Land, Sea and Air” provided students from 48 ASEM countries with the unique opportunity to study while travelling together by rail across 3 countries: China, the Russian Federation and Mongolia, learning about connectivity in its multiple dimensions, particularly transport and its socio-economic impact. The 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (November 2016, Beijing, China) was dedicated to the topic “Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights” and gathered around 120 participants from 47 ASEM Partners, representing civil society, academia, governments, and international organisations. We have been proactive in enabling people with disabilities to actively participate in this Seminar and are continuing these efforts in other projects.

Some of our flagship projects were held on the sidelines of the key ASEM Meetings in 2016. The 7th Model ASEM took place in conjunction with ASEM11 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, under the same theme as the Summit: “20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for Future through Connectivity”. Over 130 university students from all 51 ASEM countries joined the conference and ASEF, with the support of ASEM Partners, created chances for many of these youth representatives to have face-to-face interactions with the leaders, their deputies or senior officials from their home countries. Another side-event of the Summit, the 8th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ERT8) served the aim of increasing the media’s awareness of ASEM. Our biennial publication, ASEF Outlook Report 2016/2017, focused specifically on Connectivity, covering a wide range of topics from diverse perspectives. We also dedicated a special publication titled “20 Years of Asia-Europe Relations” to ASEM’s 20th anniversary, featuring articles by current and former ASEM Leaders and Ministers. Another special project, the ASEF Photo Exhibition “On the Go”, has travelled to 13 Asian and European countries, including Mongolia during the Summit.

ASEF has continued to channel the voices from civil society to policy-makers through the ASEM Ministerial Meetings and their respective Senior Officials’ Meetings, During the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM7) held in June 2016 in Gwangju, Korea, the 2nd ASEF Policy Panel on the topic of “Culture & the Creative Economy” was attended by the delegates representing 45 ASEM Partners to whom the key messages from civil society actors in the fields of arts and culture were delivered. The 5th ASEF Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARC5) on “Employability: Asia and Europe Prepare a New Generation” in April 2016 in Prague, the Czech Republic, was part of a series recognised as the Official Dialogue Partner by the ASEM Education Ministers.

ASEF’s unique role and its concrete contributions in advancing the ASEM Process have been well recognised by the ASEM Leaders in both major outcome documents of the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11), the Chair’s Statement and the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, which is highly encouraging for us all.

I wish to thank our Board of Governors for their valuable guidance, the ASEF Senior Officials and Contact Points for their continued support, our partner organisations for their constructive collaborations, our participants for their active engagement, and, last but not least, the ASEF Team for their strong dedication and hard work.

Having celebrated ASEF’s 20th anniversary, ASEF turns 20 itself in 2017. While commemorating our development over the past two decades, we are preparing ASEF’s future direction and looking forward to many more highlights to come in its next decade.

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE
ASEF Executive Director
ASEF Team
ASEF Team

Ambassador
Karsten WARNECKE
Germany
Executive Director

SUN Xiangyang
China
Deputy Executive Director

Anupama SEKHAR
India
Director
Culture

Valentina RICCARDI
Italy
Project Manager
Culture

Fatima AVILA
Philippines
Project Executive
Culture

Patricia D’COTTA
Singapore
Admin/Project Manager
Culture

Andrea ABELLON
Singapore
Volunteer
Culture

Leonie NAGARAJAN
Germany
Director
Education

Angie TOH
Singapore
Admin/Project Manager
Education

Nathalie SAJDA
Sweden
Project Executive
Education

Oscar BOJE
Finland
Project Executive
Education
ASEF Team

Vanessa VOVOR
Belgium
Project Officer
Political & Economic

KANG Siew Kheng
Singapore
Director
Public Affairs

Rafael SECADIES
Spain
Deputy Director
Public Affairs

Debasmita DASGUPTA
India
Press Manager
Public Affairs

Caroline PAJARON
Philippines
Communications Manager
Public Affairs

Dominic LIM
Singapore
Communications Executive
Public Affairs

Jimin HWANG
Korea
Communications Executive
Public Affairs

Angelina CHEW
Singapore
Admin/Communications Executive
Public Affairs

Natalie HONG
China
Chief of Staff
Executive Office

Wendy LEE
Singapore
Senior Executive
Executive Office

Julia SZABLEWSKA
Poland
Executive Assistant
Executive Office

Gretchen TAN
Philippines
Executive Assistant
Executive Office
Amelia
INDRADJAJA
Indonesia
Executive Assistant
Executive Office

Crystal KOH
Singapore
Director
Finance & Admin

Georgina LEONG
Singapore
Senior Manager - Administration
Finance & Admin

Sunkyoung LEE
Korea
Human Resource Manager
Finance & Admin

LIM Bee Gnoh
Malaysia
Finance Manager
Finance & Admin

XUE Linyan
China
Manager - Project Fund
Finance & Admin

Irene YAP
Singapore
Accounts Executive
Finance & Admin

TAN Chin Chin
Malaysia
Accounts Executive
Finance & Admin

Michael LASERNA
Philippines
Administrative Executive
Finance & Admin

Basri MOHAMED BORHAN
Singapore
Chauffeur
Finance & Admin

Vetrivelu SINNATHAMBY
Singapore
Foundation Driver
Finance & Admin
• ASEF at the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM7)
• ASEF at the 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture
• WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies
• ASEF culture360
• ASEF Creative Networks: 3rd Edition
• Creative Encounters – Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe: 5th Edition
ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series

The ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series aims to stimulate analysis and engagement that reflect current debates in arts and culture in Asia and Europe, including the political priorities at the ASEM level.

ASEF at the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM7)

22–24 June 2016
Gwangju, Korea

An ASEF delegation led by Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF’s then Deputy Executive Director, attended the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM7), where he presented ASEF’s work in culture.

To channel civil society inputs into this Ministerial meeting, ASEF co-organised the 2nd ASEF Policy Panel on “Culture and the Creative Economy: What Opportunities for Asia-Europe Exchange and Collaboration?” The panel was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea, Gwangju Metropolitan City and the Asia Culture Center. ASEF also compiled 27 case studies on creative cities across Asia and Europe, which were presented in the 2nd edition of the publication, “Cities: Living Labs for Culture? Case Studies from Asia & Europe”, which was launched at ASEM CMM7. In the ASEM CMM7 Chair’s Statement, Culture Ministers acknowledged ASEF’s significant role in facilitating bi-regional dialogue in arts and culture across Asia and Europe, through the ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series, culture360.ASEF.org, and the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS).

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
ASEF at the 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture

18–21 October 2016
Valletta, Malta

Arts leadership and the changing role of culture in foreign policy were the themes of the 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture. At the Summit, ASEF supported a panel discussion on *What Role for Culture in Foreign Policy: How Important is the Relationship between Culture and International Relations?* The shifting role of culture in public diplomacy and the rise of new non-state actors were discussed at length. More than 70 arts practitioners, culture professionals and representatives of cultural agencies attended the panel discussion, organised in partnership with the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and Arts Council Malta (ACM). In addition, ASEF supported 15 Asian cultural experts to attend the Summit, thus contributing to a balanced Asia-Europe representation at this international gathering. ASEF and Griffith University also co-organised a Rapporteurs’ Workshop for Regionally Speaking: Navigating Cultures Through Personal Journeys in the Arts, which explored the contemporary arts landscape in Southeast Asia in view of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN.
WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies

As a partner of WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies, ASEF continued to support research studies on cultural policy issues and trends in Asia and Europe throughout 2016. UNESCO has recognised the WorldCP initiative as a valuable information and monitoring system of cultural policies in “Re-shaping Cultural Policies: A Decade Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Development – 2005 Convention Global Report” (November 2015). The cultural policy profiles, commissioned under the WorldCP-Asia project, are accessible on www.worldcp.org. This project is led by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFFACA), with ASEF serving as the Regional Secretariat for WorldCP-Asia. The national partners are: Arts Council of Mongolia; Cambodian Living Arts; Korean National Commission for UNESCO; Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth, Singapore; Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Mongolia; Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korea; Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam; and National Commission for Culture & the Art, The Philippines.

Partners
ASEF Cultural Platforms and Networks Programme

The ASEF Cultural Platforms and Networks Programme actively supports artistic collaborations and bi-regional networking among arts professionals from Asia and Europe. It also facilitates public access to information on arts and culture through online platforms.

ASEF culture360

2016
Online

ASEF culture360 is an online platform for information exchange among artists, cultural professionals and policy-makers from Asia and Europe. It is a portal that provides information on news, events and opportunities relating to the arts and culture in 51 countries of Asia and Europe, and features a special magazine with commissioned articles. In 2016, ASEF culture360 marked its 8th year. Among other projects in 2016, the portal published a report on “Culture & Disability: Policies & Practices in Asia and Europe”, focusing on existing legislation, policies, programmes and projects in the field of culture and disability in the countries that are part of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). The report was presented at the 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights (8–10 November 2016, Beijing, China), co-organised by ASEF.

The portal also commissioned one new Guide on Korea as part of Creative Responses to Sustainability Series, which presents pioneering art organisations working on environmental issues. ASEF culture360 supported various arts initiatives, including the FEFF Campus for Young Journalists at the 18th Far East Film Festival (FEFF) in Udine, Italy; Youth Jury and Critics programme at the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) 2016; and the International Conference for Cultural Policy Research (ICCPR) in Seoul, Korea.

Partners

Supporters

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
ASEF Creative Networks: 3rd Edition

2016
Austria, Cambodia, China, Spain, Singapore, Viet Nam

ASEF Creative Networks recognises the growing importance of cultural networks as a channel for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. In 2016, the 3rd edition of ASEF Creative Networks supported 3 activities from a pool of 22 proposals received in response to an open call. 7 meetings and public forums took place in 6 countries (Austria, Cambodia, China, Singapore, Spain and Viet Nam), involved 6 partners and benefited 150 participants from Asia and Europe. Supported projects included (1) Eurasian Creaspace Networking: a gathering of managers of small creative spaces; (2) Greater Mekong Hub for Cultural Changemakers: a capacity-building programme for young cultural innovators; and (3) Southeast Asian Film Financing (SAFF) Forum 2016: a platform connecting filmmakers with upcoming film projects with financiers and distributors, who can help bring these projects into fruition.

Partners

ASEF supported the Eurasian Creaspace Networking project, where 6 European cultural managers participated in study visits in Kunming, China.

ASEF supported the Eurasian Creaspace Networking project, where 5 Asian cultural managers participated in study visits in Valencia, Spain.

Cultural leaders exchange ideas during the Greater Mekong Hub for Cultural Changemakers project.

This project is supported by the French Trust Fund.
Creative Encounters – Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe: 5th Edition

2016
Mongolia, Thailand

Creative Encounters supports innovative collaborations between artists and arts organisations in Asia and Europe. To this end, the project series invites proposals through a competitive annual call. In 2016, the 5th edition of Creative Encounters supported 2 multilateral projects covering digital, performance and visual arts. Artist residencies, public performances, panel discussions and workshops took place in 2 countries. They benefited 80 participants and were attended by sizeable public audiences.

Partners

The Asiatopia Bangkok Conference took place in Thailand.

New Media Art Installation at the Ulaanbaatar Media Arts Festival 2016 in Mongolia
- 5th ASEM Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARC5)
- ASEF at the ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials’ Meeting on Education (ASEM ME6 ISOM)
- ASEF at the 1st ASEM Education Senior Officials’ Meeting for the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6)
- ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning, “21st Century Skills”
- ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Conference, “Lifelong Learning and Resilience in Disaster Management – Asian and European Perspectives”
- 20th ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU20)
- ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet)
- 7th Model ASEM
- ASEF Capacity Training on “Public Speaking and Negotiation”
- ASEF Capacity Training Series on “Leadership and Entrepreneurship”
5th ASEM Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARC5)

3–8 April 2016
Prague, Czech Republic

ARC5 on “Employability: Asia and Europe Prepare a New Generation” brought together close to 250 university leaders, business representatives, government officials, and delegates of international organisations, as well as students, to address how universities and the business sector can cooperate better to equip students with the necessary skills and competences to access the labour market. A highlight of the ARC5 programme was a panel discussion with the Vice-Ministers for Education of the Czech Republic and Korea, as well as the subsequent dialogue session with the rectors and students. With ARC being the Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers Meetings (ASEM ME), rectors and students jointly developed a set of policy recommendations that were personally handed to Professor Dr LEE Young, Vice-Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea, at ARC5. Korea will host the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6) in November 2017.
ASEF at the ASEM Intermediate Senior Officials’ Meeting on Education (ASEM ME6 ISOM)

13–14 April 2016
Moscow, Russian Federation

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation hosted the ASEM ISOM under the theme of “Global Connection for ASEM Education” on the sidelines of the Moscow International Education Fair. The meeting kick-started the preparations for the upcoming 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting in November 2017 in Korea. ASEM partners shared results and achievements of bi-regional activities within the ASEM Education Process. The ASEF Education Department presented the impact of its work portfolio in 2016 and the policy recommendations of the recent 5th ASEM Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARC5).

ASEF at the 1st ASEM Education Senior Officials’ Meeting for the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6)

9–10 November 2016
Seoul, Korea

Focusing on the topic “Collaboration for the Next Decade: from Common Perspectives to Effective Fulfilment”, Senior Officials of over 46 Education Ministries discussed the agenda of the upcoming 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6) in Seoul. They reasserted the ASEM Education Process’s 4 priority areas: a) quality assurance and recognition; b) engaging business and industry in education; c) balanced mobility; d) lifelong learning, including technical and vocational training. The ASEF Education Department presented its achievements and contributions to the ASEM Education Process and ASEM ME6, emphasising its focus on entrepreneurship and youth employment in the ASEF Education Policy Programme and the ASEF Young Leaders Programme.
ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning, “21st Century Skills”

3–5 October 2016
Copenhagen, Denmark

The largest annual event of the ASEM Education Policy Conference series gathered more than 120 researchers, policy-makers and academic practitioners from over 30 ASEM partner countries, including alumni from ASEF youth education projects. Participants shared their perspectives on skills needed to thrive in our ever-changing world, and how appropriate lifelong learning opportunities can be created and supported across Asia and Europe. Recommendations from the forum will be tabled at the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6). The forum was organised by the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning and supported by ASEF.

6–8 June 2016
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Linking the ASEM LLL Hub
Research Networks on “National Lifelong Learning Strategies” and “Workplace Learning”, more than 70 researchers, policy-makers and academic practitioners, including alumni from ASEF youth education projects, explored national, as well as workplace, lifelong learning policies and practices. Particular emphasis was placed on the interplay between workplaces, institutions, family and community, and how these could be leveraged to improve citizens’ access to, and motivation for continuing education and training. The symposium was organised by the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning and supported by ASEF.

ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Conference, “Lifelong Learning and Resilience in Disaster Management – Asian and European Perspectives”

8–10 November 2016
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

More than 70 researchers, policy-makers and academic practitioners from more than 18 ASEM partner countries, including alumni from ASEF youth education projects, discussed the interrelated fields of lifelong learning and disaster management as part of the ASEM Education Policy Conference Series. Workshops and panels on risk identification, reduction and prevention, as well as restoring heritage and sustaining cultural integrity, culminated in recommendations that will be tabled at the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6). The conference was organised by the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning and supported by ASEF.

Partners and Supporters

[Images of partner and supporter logos]

Participants networking at the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
ASEF Young Leaders Programme

The ASEF Young Leaders Programme provides platforms for solution-centred dialogue and pragmatic skills-development, enabling youth to establish networks and create direct connections with ASEM policy-makers.

20th ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU20)

15 August 2016 – 3 September 2016
Beijing & Harbin, China;
Vladivostok, Chita & Irkutsk,
Russian Federation;
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

ASEF’s most ambitious and dynamic education project to date took 47 participants from 45 Asian and European countries on a 3-week exploratory journey across China, the Russian Federation, and Mongolia under the theme “Gateways of Asia and Europe: Connectivity by Land, Sea & Air”. The programme included 46 lectures and 23 study visits to local transportation hubs and 12 human library workshops. The participating young professionals and students met and learnt from local communities, government officials, businesses, academia and civil society, before developing solutions for real-scenario challenges relating to human connectivity, trade and economic cooperation, and transport.

Supporters

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (China)

Unicef

Supporters
ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet)

2016

Online and in various locations

Exceptional in its participant and target groups, ASEF ClassNet harnesses the energy and creativity of teachers and students of secondary, high and vocational schools across Asia and Europe. Providing opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges through the use of ICT, this year, 34 new Online Collaborations involved more than 2000 pupils from more than 90 schools across 38 different countries.

Teachers planning their 2016 Online Collaborations at the 12th ASEF ClassNet Conference in 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
7th Model ASEM

6–10 July 2016
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

This year’s Model ASEM was held in conjunction with the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11). Celebrating ASEM’s 20th Anniversary, 116 participants from all 51 ASEM partner countries enhanced their diplomacy, negotiation, and public-speaking skills through role-play, research and practical training during the 3-day youth conference and political simulation. For the first time in ASEM’s history, 4 students were invited to participate in the Opening Ceremony of ASEM11 to make a youth intervention to the ASEM Leaders. With the support of several ASEM Ministries of Foreign Affairs, ASEF arranged 26 personal interactions between ASEM Leaders and participants of their respective countries. Participants also made study visits to 10 ASEM diplomatic missions and 1 international organisation. The project culminated in an acknowledgement of the 7th Model ASEM conference and its outcomes in the ASEM11 Chair’s Statement.
ASEF Capacity Training on “Public Speaking and Negotiation”

27–28 June 2016
Manila, Philippines

A spin-off of the Model ASEM project series, this training built up the momentum for the 7th Model ASEM conference on 6–10 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The 2 one-day training courses, facilitated by Asian and European partner and supporter organisations, gathered 60 local Filipino and international students. Participants had the opportunity to assess their presentation and speaking styles, as well as reflect on how best to engage in negotiations.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

ASEF Capacity Training Series on “Leadership and Entrepreneurship”

17–18 March 2016
Islamabad, Pakistan

22–23 March 2016
Dhaka, Bangladesh

This training series marked the 1st ASEF education activities implemented in these 2 ASEM partner countries. As spin-off events from the ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS) in 2015, these skills-based workshops engaged around 80 young entrepreneurs, students and academics. The training was conducted by senior business coaches, as well as junior trainers, representing ASEF’s youth project alumni. Sessions focused on the social dimensions of leadership, stakeholder management, community engagement, impact assessment and communication.
• 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: “Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights”
• A Rights-Based Approach to Anti-Trafficking: Lessons from Asia and Europe
• Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative 2016 – 4th Online Training
• Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative 2016 – 4th Face-to-face Training
• Launch of the ASEF Public Diplomacy Handbook
16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: “Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights”

8–10 November 2016
Beijing, China

The 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights on “Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights” brought together more than 120 participants including senior government officials, human rights ambassadors, academics, as well as disability experts and advocates from Asia and Europe. The seminar focused on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities from a human rights-based approach, in particular, how their rights can be strengthened at the regional and national levels. Participants emphasised the importance of including persons with disabilities in the discussion on human rights and the need to build more equitable and inclusive societies across Asia and Europe. 4 key aspects were discussed during the working groups including participation in political and cultural life; social and economic inclusion; legal status, justice and remedy; national implementation and international cooperation. Mr LI Baoding, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, attended the opening ceremony and delivered the opening speech on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China. Mr Yannis YALLOUROS, Vice-President of the European Disability Forum, was the keynote speaker at this event.

Opening plenary session of the 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

Working Group discussion on national implementation and international cooperation

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
A Rights-Based Approach to Anti-Trafficking: Lessons from Asia and Europe

21 October 2016
Singapore

25 October 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

26 October 2016
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Based on the outcomes of the 15th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights “Human Rights and Trafficking”, ASEF has organised policy briefings in Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia, to exchange best practices and lessons learnt from across Asia and Europe for a rights-based approach, to counter human trafficking. The policy briefings also featured the launch of the publication of the 15th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights. Dr Anne GALLAGHER (Independent Expert) and Ms Klara SKRIVANKOVA (Anti-Slavery International), who were the main rapporteurs of the 15th Seminar and the main authors, shared the Seminar findings and the recommendations from the publication. ASEF had the pleasure to welcome Ambassador Pers-Anders SUNESSON, Sweden’s Ambassador-at-Large for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, as a speaker at the policy briefings.
Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative

The Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative conducts training of young Asian and European diplomats engaged in public diplomacy efforts. Through interactive training courses, the initiative aims to build the skills of young diplomats and improve the relations between Asia and Europe by enhancing public diplomacy efforts among the ASEM Partners. It provides practical skills-oriented training with toolkits and modules designed by public diplomacy experts and practitioners, including senior diplomats, with the support of Asian and European diplomatic academies.

4 April – 12 June 2016

Partners

Sponsor

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative 2016 – 4th Face-to-face Training

5–9 December 2016
The Hague, Netherlands

24 diplomats from Asian and European ASEM Partners participated in the 4th face-to-face Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training in The Hague, the Netherlands. In addition to acquiring core diplomacy skills in international negotiations, crisis communication and e-diplomacy, participants learned about the cross-perceptions that shape the image of Asian and European countries, as well as the important role of public diplomacy for nation-branding. As part of the training, a work visit to the Communications Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands was organised, during which participants learned how the Netherlands engages in public diplomacy in the 21st century.

Partners

Sponsor
Launch of the ASEF Public Diplomacy Handbook

6 December 2016
The Hague, Netherlands

Under the Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative, ASEF officially launched the ASEF Public Diplomacy Handbook: How to Win Hearts and Minds. 6 experts from different foreign ministries, media and academia were invited to take part in an Experts’ Roundtable to share their experiences and analyses on public diplomacy. The experts emphasised the need for diplomats to engage different stakeholders and foster dialogue across borders and sectors. The launch event was organised in conjunction with the 4th Face-to-Face Public Diplomacy Training, and in collaboration with The Clingendael Institute in The Hague.

• Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Asia and Europe: Delivery Options for the 2030 Agenda

• CLMV Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

• Post-Paris Workshop: ASEAN Member States in Meeting Global Targets

• Myanmar National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) Implementation

• Lao PDR National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

• Viet Nam National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

• Workshop on Visualising Interconnections for Sustainable Development

• Sustainable Development Transition Forum
Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum

The Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum aims to bring together representatives from government agencies and experts in the field of energy and climate change from research institutions, among others, to develop insights into the energy policy of ASEM Partners and explore areas of cooperation to mitigate the common critical energy challenges they face. The Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum provides a platform for prominent representatives from the academic, corporate and decision-making spheres in ASEM regions to foster a continuous policy dialogue on the topics of energy security and climate change policy in relation to energy.

Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum, COP22 Side-Event

“Sustainable Resource Management and Energy Security in Asia and Europe”

15 November 2016
Marrakesh, Morocco

The Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum kicked off its activities with a side-event of the 22nd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), the world’s largest climate change conference, in Marrakesh, Morocco. The side event “Sustainable Resource Management and Energy Security in Asia and Europe”, jointly organised with the Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLAP) and the Green Asia Organization (GAO), was hosted in the Korea Pavilion, with the support of the Government of Korea. Gathering representatives of governments, academia, research institutes, business, and civil society of Asia, Europe and other continents, this event provided a unique opportunity to showcase Asian and European good practices for the improvement of sustainable resource management and its integration in energy policies to an audience of more than 50 participants.

Partner

This project is sponsored by the Government of France.

Supporters

Senior Officials at the ASEF COP22 Side-Event
The ENVforum aims to foster inter-regional cooperation between Europe and Asia on sustainable development and its environmental dimensions. Acting both as a facilitator and bottom-up promoter of wide-ranging initiatives, the ENVforum provides the ideal platform for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and up-to-date information for policy makers and partner organisations on environmental themes. Ultimately, the forum strives to contribute meaningfully to the formulation of sound political decisions that take into account their environmental impact.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs marked a significant turning point in the global development framework. Now, more than ever, international cooperation and strong partnerships will be central to the success of the development agenda. This conference was jointly organised by ASEF and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and supported by the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) consortium. The conference gathered policy-makers and development experts from Asia and Europe, involved in the SDGs process and contributed to national preparations for SDG implementation and monitoring, as well as supporting multi-stakeholder, regional and international dialogue and knowledge exchange on mainstreaming the SDGs into national development planning.

The conference used participatory methods to achieve its objectives and build on active involvement and expert input. The conference included guided presentations on SDGs implementation and monitoring, formal country presentations by representatives from Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Partners on their experience in implementing SDGs, as well as plenary discussions on various aspects of SDGs implementation.

Panellists discussing National SDGs’ implementation challenges
CLMV Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

14–15 June 2016
Hanoi, Viet Nam

The CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam) Workshop on SDGs was co-organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), the Vietnamese Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), and gathered representatives from relevant ministries of these countries working in implementing SDGs. The workshop provided a space for the exchange of ideas and experiences between development experts and government officials, involved in SDGs, and those who had been involved in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda. The conference was also designed to promote exchange on a regional and international level, inviting representatives from selected countries and as well as experts from Asia and Europe. The participants benefited from the expertise of regional and international experts, thereby fostering their understanding of current sustainable development challenges in Asia and Europe. They were strongly encouraged to interact with one another in order to test their ideas and develop a common dialogue.

Partners

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

Participants of the ENVforum regional conference on Sustainable Development Goals
Post-Paris Workshop: ASEAN Member States in Meeting Global Targets

1–2 June 2016
Jakarta, Indonesia

The ENVforum organised and facilitated a 2-day workshop entitled, “Post-Paris Workshop: ASEAN Member States in Meeting Global Targets” for government officials from ASEAN Member States (AMS). The workshop aimed at communicating the outcomes and next steps following COP21, and contributing to relevant key result area under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, namely sustainable climate. The event was co-organised with the ASEAN Secretariat and GIZ. This workshop was held in conjunction with the consultation workshop on the drafting of Post-2015 AWGCC Action Plan. Eminent speakers included climate change focal points from AMS governments, who presented the progress of their respective governments with regards to the Paris Agreement. The workshop provided an opportunity for the ENVforum to present an updated Handbook for ASEAN Member States’ Government Officials on Climate Change, a manual on climate change negotiations status quo of AMS and relevant information about COP21, the Paris Agreement and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) prepared especially for the purpose of this workshop.

Partners

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
Myanmar National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) Implementation

22 September 2016
Naypyidaw, Myanmar

The SDGs were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, whereupon countries were encouraged to take ownership of the process of implementing the SDGs in light of their respective national realities, capacities, and priorities. The National Workshop on SDGs Implementation aimed to support this process by providing a platform for officials from the Myanmar government to discuss how these global goals and targets could be incorporated into national planning. This workshop was co-organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) Myanmar, and gathered participants from various line ministries, research institutions/universities, and development partners involved in the SDGs process in Myanmar. Participants benefited from input presentations from international and locally-based experts, and took part in working groups to discuss localising SDGs into national policy. The ultimate aim of the workshop was to enhance awareness among policymakers in Myanmar on SDGs and its targets, as well as to identify enabling conditions for SDGs’ implementation.

Dr Wah Wah MAUNG, Director General, Central Statistical Organization explaining Myanmar Monitoring System

This project is funded by the European Union.
Lao PDR National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

8–9 November 2016
Vientiane, Lao PDR

“Sustainable Development Goals Delivery: Lao PDR National Workshop” aimed to support this process by providing a platform for officials from the Lao PDR government to discuss how these global goals and targets could be incorporated into national planning. This workshop was co-organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Lao PDR, and gathered participants from various line ministries, research institutions/universities, and development partners involved in the SDGs process in Lao PDR. Participants benefited from input presentations from international and locally-based experts, and took part in working groups to discuss localising SDGs into National Policy. The ultimate aim of the workshop is to enhance awareness among policymakers in Lao PDR on SDGs and its targets, as well as to identify enabling conditions for SDGs implementation.

Partners

Supporter

This project is funded by the European Union.
### Viet Nam National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

**17 June 2016**  
**Hanoi, Viet Nam**

The SDGs were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, whereupon countries were encouraged to take ownership of the process of implementing the SDGs in light of their respective national realities, capacities, and priorities. The National Workshop on SDGs Implementation aimed to support this process by providing a platform for officials from the Viet Nam government to discuss how these global goals and targets could be incorporated into national planning. This workshop was co-organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) and the Vietnamese Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), and gathered participants from various line ministries, research institutions/universities, and development partners involved in the SDGs process in Viet Nam. Participants benefited from input presentations from international and locally-based experts, and took part in working groups to discuss localising SDGs into national policy. The ultimate aim of the workshop was to enhance awareness among Vietnamese policymakers on SDGs and its targets, as well as to identify enabling conditions for SDGs implementation.

### Workshop on Visualising Interconnections for Sustainable Development

**20 August 2016**  
**Singapore**

This workshop for young people was co-organised with the Ridge View Residential College (RVRC) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) for NUS students. It aimed to develop knowledge on how to approach sustainability issues. The workshop emphasised systems thinking, a framework that identifies dynamic relationships among different factors in a system, to create effective programming to promote sustainability. It used non-formal education and experiential learning in order to support the individual growth of participants, encouraged participants to learn from each other, and empowered them to initiate their own projects to support sustainable development. Participants were given the opportunity to undertake a community project on promoting sustainability, using the skillsets that they acquired from the workshop.

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**Partners**

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
The 2016 Sustainable Development Transition Forum built on its 2015 outcomes and insights, and created a bridge between the 2016 and 2017 thematic focus of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF): Leaving no one behind and Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World, respectively. Attention was also given to the HLPF’s focus on SDGs for 2017, including SDG1 (End Poverty), SDG2 (End Hunger), SDG3 (Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Wellbeing), SDG5 (Achieve Gender Equality), SDG9 (Build Resilient Infrastructure and Foster Innovation), SDG14 (Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans), and SDG17 (Strengthening the Means of Implementation and Global Partnerships). ASEF contributed to this event, organised by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), by providing insights gained from ENVforum’s research and capacity-building initiatives.
13th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF): Global Macro-economic Policy Coordination in the New Era
Economy

13th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF): Global Macro-economic Policy Coordination in the New Era

21–22 September 2016
Beijing, China

The 13th AEEF Conference “Global Macro-economic Policy Coordination in the New Era” brought together 50 high-ranking participants, including active and former senior policy-makers, academic experts and private sector specialists, to discuss key economic issues relevant to Asia and Europe. Topics discussed included the state of the global economy, the Chinese economy in the “new normal”, financial openness and regulation, trade and investment, G20 issues, as well as inequality. The event was jointly organised by Chongyang Institute of Finance at Renmin University of China (host), the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and Korea University on the Asian side, and the Centre d’Etudes Prospectives et d’Informations Internationales (CEPII), Bruegel and Bertelsmann Stiftung, on the European side, with the support of ASEF.

The public session of the Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF) focused on China, G20 and Global Economic Governance.

Partners

[Images of logos from ADB Institute, Bruegel, CEPII, and Korea University]
The public session, chaired by WANG Wen (left), Executive Dean of Chongyang Institute, Renmin University of China, welcomed keynote speaker Viviane REDING (centre), Former Vice-President of the European Commission, and ZHU Guangyao (right), Vice-Finance Minister of China.
• Joint ECDC-ASEF Workshop, “How Can We Be Better Prepared for the Next Global Health Threat? Planning and Implementing Emergency Risk Communication”

• Addressing Health Vulnerabilities of Migrants in Large Migration Flows: An Inter-Regional Roundtable Discussion

7–8 September 2016
Stockholm, Sweden

The workshop, organised in partnership with the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), brought together 58 experts from 35 different ASEM Partners to discuss how to integrate risk communication into the public health emergency preparedness cycle, and what capacities, capabilities and competences are required to implement Emergency Risk Communication (ERC). There were 2 keynote speeches delivered by Dr Chris NELSON from Harvard University and Dr Gaya GAMHEWAGE from World Health Organization, as well as 2 case studies (MERS-Cov in Korea and Dengue in Portugal). Participants had active discussions in working groups to identify topics and challenges in achieving objectives of effective planning and implementing ERC. A total of 6 challenges were identified: (a) Community Engagement; (b) Monitoring and Evaluation; (c) Uncertainty Management; (d) ERC Integration in Preparedness Cycle; (e) Political Interface; and (f) Resources.
Addressing Health Vulnerabilities of Migrants in Large Migration Flows: An Inter-Regional Roundtable Discussion

25 April 2016
Geneva, Switzerland

The Inter-regional Roundtable Discussion examined the management of large unprecedented migration flows occurring across Asia and Europe – the Andaman Sea and the European Migration Crisis. In partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for South-eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, this Roundtable sought to address the health vulnerabilities of migrants, as well as public health challenges and stresses faced by countries affected by the crises. It was a platform for key stakeholders to share best practices that can address the health needs of migrants caught along transit routes during the migration process.

Mr Jaime CALDERON, Senior Regional Migration and Health Specialist from the Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. International Organization for Migration (IOM) addressing government representatives from Asia and Europe.
Other Projects

ASEF Outlook Report 2016/2017 Launch Events

Asia
7 July 2016
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

On the occasion of the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) and in conjunction with the 7th Model ASEM, ASEF launched its 3rd edition of the Outlook Report series entitled, “ASEF Outlook Report 2016/2017 – CONNECTIVITY: Facts and Perspectives”. A panel discussion was organised on the topic “20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity” where panellists highlighted the achievements of ASEM over the last 20 years and presented major trends in Asia-Europe connectivity, through facts and figures. More than 300 people attended the launch, including students from the 7th Model ASEM, representatives from resident embassies, civil society organisations and international organisations.

Europe
5 September 2016
Le Havre, France

As a follow-up to the launch in Mongolia, ASEF and Sciences Po Le Havre Campus co-organised the launch of the ASEF Outlook Report 2016/2017 in Le Havre, France. A panel discussion on “Asia-Europe Connectivity: Reflecting on the Past, Preparing for the Future” was organised focusing on the changing aspects and foreseeable challenges of Asia-Europe connectivity. The panellists shared insights on the historical connections between Asia and Europe from the 16th to the 21st century and reflected on the level of connectedness between the two regions today.

Panellists discuss Asia-Europe connectivity at the Asia launch in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Contributors present their findings on connectivity at the Europe Launch in Le Havre, France.

Partners

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
8th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable & ASEF Journalists’ Workshops on “Asia-Europe Digital Connectivity”

28–29 January 2016, Brussels, Belgium
7–11 May 2016, Guangzhou, China
7–9 July 2016, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

On the occasion of ASEM’s 20th Anniversary, ASEF organised a special edition of the ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ERT), one of ASEF’s longstanding projects. This special edition included two journalists’ workshops and an online survey. A total of 56 journalists, editors and senior editors from 29 ASEM countries participated in the roundtable and workshops, with more than 50 researchers, academics, journalists and ASEM delegates attending the open sessions. The online survey engaged 581 respondents from 46 ASEM countries.

Journalists and senior editors attending the 8th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ERT8) reinforced the importance of quality journalism that serves diverse audiences, and connects people across Asia and Europe, enhancing mutual understanding. They acknowledged the significance of collaboration between journalists and media organisations from the two regions and proposed that the governments of ASEM Partners facilitate collaborative journalism between Asia and Europe. The roundtable participants agreed on a list of recommendations to achieve this, and to set up the Asia-Europe Media Network, with editors from major news media in Poland and Singapore as the first co-chairs.

As a follow-up to the Asia-Europe Media Network initiated during the ERT8 series, ASEF, in partnership with CASA Asia and Real Instituto Elcano, organised a media workshop on 4–7 October 2016 in Madrid, Spain.

Journalists attending the ASEF Journalists’ Workshop (Asia) also had the opportunity to participate in the ASEM Media Dialogue on Connectivity, from 9–10 May in Guangzhou, China. Their conclusions and ideas were captured in the ASEM Media Dialogue on Connectivity Report, which China presented to the Working Group on Press and Public Awareness Management Strategy during the ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) on 12–13 May 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
ASEM 20th Anniversary Projects by ASEF

• ASEM 20th Anniversary Book: “20 Years of Asia-Europe Relations”
• ASEF Photo Exhibition “On the Go”
ASEM 20th Anniversary Projects by ASEF
ASEM 20th Anniversary Book: “20 Years of Asia-Europe Relations”

This is ASEF’s special publication dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). It is a collection of articles by leaders and experts from Asia and Europe on the past, present and future of ASEM. Selected articles from this collection were compiled and published as a book by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and launched at the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) Summit in 2016 in Mongolia.

In the opening essay, Mr GOH Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister and former Prime Minister of Singapore, and a founding partner of ASEM, explains how his vision for a new ‘tri-polar world’ grew out of the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s. This vision underpins the impetus for the launch of ASEM, as a new “institutional link to complete the triangle” through closer relations between Asia and Europe, to complement the close ties that the United States already had with the two regions.

Other essays expressed partners’ appreciation for what ASEM has achieved over the last two decades and their aspirations for its future.

This collection of essays provides insights into a range of themes from economics to education, culture to climate change, and is a true reflection of the breadth and depth of issues that engage ASEM partners. The usefulness of the ASEM process as a forum for dialogue and platform for collaboration is a theme that permeates through the collection. The essays provide not only reflections on the history of ASEM but also expressions of hope for its future on the eve of its 21st year.
To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in 2016, ASEF partnered with overseas and local partners to present a travelling photo exhibition entitled “On the Go”. The exhibition comprised images submitted by photographers from Asia and Europe, to an online ASEF contest. Entries were encouraged to capture images of everyday lives of people in motion; this demonstrated that people from the two regions can be different and yet like-minded.

The exhibition was launched on 5 November 2015 in Luxembourg on the side-lines of the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM12). Since then the exhibition had travelled to many ASEM countries as well as to the United Nations Headquarters in the USA.

In Singapore, ASEF worked with partners including LASALLE College of the Arts and the National Library Board’s branch libraries – Jurong Regional Library, Bukit Merah, Marine Parade Public Libraries and Tampines Regional Library from August – November 2016. The exhibition saw its last public presentation at Temasek Polytechnic Library, from 16 January – 3 February 2017. Thereafter, the exhibition returned to ASEF, where it will be on permanent display.
The Mobility Funding Guides for International Cultural Exchange on 51 countries of Asia and Europe provides a comprehensive list of resources on cultural mobility in both regions. In 2016, content on the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been updated. The Guides have been recognised by UNESCO as an important information tool for artists, in its recent report, Re-shaping Cultural Policies: A Decade Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Development – 2005 Convention Global Report (November 2015).


This report presents an overview of existing legislation, policies and programmes that enable access to arts for people of disabilities. It illustrates the diverse range of areas in which measures can be adopted so as to provide inspiration to stakeholders across Asia and Europe. The publication was launched at the 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights (8-10 November 2016, Beijing, China), co-organised by ASEF.


This Korea Guide is part of a series that explores the intersection of arts and environmental sustainability. It features a directory of the 20 top pioneering arts organisations in Korea contributing to social and environmental change through their artistic practices.

http://bit.ly/2pF1RPD
GOVERNANCE

Human Rights & Trafficking in Persons: Proceedings of the 15th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights
November 2016

Addressing the need to strengthen human rights in relation to anti-trafficking measures, the publication details the proceedings of the 15th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights on “Human Rights and Trafficking” held on 24-26 November 2015 in Montreux, Switzerland. Based on the outcomes of the working groups’ discussions during the seminar, the book offers key observations on preventive measures, protection and assistance of trafficked persons, access to justice, and international cooperation against trafficking. Providing recommendations to optimise strategies of prevention, protection and identification of victims of human trafficking, the publication is an essential resource for both practitioners and scholars, who work on human trafficking issues, particularly in Asia and Europe.


ASEF Public Diplomacy Handbook: How to Win Hearts and Minds
December 2016

Published as part of the Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative, this ASEF Public Diplomacy Handbook provides a theoretical foundation and practical tools to construct a successful public diplomacy campaign in the context of Asia-Europe relations. Each chapter combines theories on a relevant topic with useful information obtained from the authors’ hands-on experience. The accompanying interviews with high-profile professionals provide insight into the role of public diplomacy in enhancing Asia-Europe cooperation.


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators for a Small Planet: Securing Means of Implementation in Poland
June 2016

This is the product of a research project coordinated by the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum). The study focuses on the national-level challenges relating to Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDGs) implementation, based on three themes selected as relevant for Poland: poverty, agriculture, and energy and climate change. The publication aims to support ASEM countries in implementing and monitoring SDGs by offering a selection of thematic case studies based on practical experience and strategic guidance for national-level SDG implementation.

http://bit.ly/2pinUMt

These publications are also downloadable at www.ASEF.org/pubs/asef-publications.
The report summarises the presentations and deliberations of the Inter-Regional Roundtable discussion on “Addressing Health Vulnerabilities of Migrants in Large Migration Flows”, organised by Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 25 April 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. Discussing the experiences of countries encountering large unprecedented migration movements, the Roundtable gathered 40 experts from Asian and European governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and academia, and provided an avenue for interaction and analysis of the public health challenges in the two regions. Key recommendations from the discussions include delivery of adequate migrant-sensitive healthcare services; strengthening the capacity of health systems and health providers; promotion of dialogue among different national-level institutions and across countries; facilitation of migrants’ integration into mainstream society; changing the negative narrative around migration; and highlighting shared responsibility of addressing the health needs of migrants among governments, international organisations and NGOs.


As connectivity gains in importance in national, regional, inter-regional, and global spheres, it has also emerged as an area for cooperation and collaboration, in particular for Asia and Europe. But how, and to what extent, are Asia and Europe connected? By what means can Asia-Europe connectivity be sustained and advanced well into the future? Published in line with the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM11), ASEF Outlook Report 2016/2017 – CONNECTIVITY: Facts and Perspectives, offers statistical and qualitative analyses on the status of Asia-Europe connectivity. Volume I: Data on Connectivity, in particular, presents data on Asia-Europe connectivity as it relates to the following dimensions: Digital Connectivity; Economics of Connectivity; Sustainable Development; Connectivity in Culture and Media; Connectivity in Education; and Connectivity in Governance.

http://bit.ly/2o6FVgf

Volume II: Connecting Asia and Europe features 13 articles from selected experts on the past, present and future developments of Asia-Europe connectivity. This volume provides in-depth analyses of the following key areas: Measuring Connectivity; Digital Connectivity; Economics of Connectivity; Connectivity in Media and Culture; and Connectivity through Education.


These publications are also downloadable at www.ASEF.org/pubs/asef-publications.
The handbook is part of the ASEF Media Handbook series and is designed to provide journalists and media organisations as well as individuals and non-profits with a guide to the challenges of covering crises, suggestions on how to overcome them, and ideas on how to improve coverage of crises in the future. Few journalists have experience covering crises or many who have reported crises have done so only sporadically during their careers. This handbook is designed to convey the knowledge of how to best cover crises, how reporters can deal with issues that arise during crisis reporting, how immediate short-term coverage and longer-term coverage objectives and requirements differ.


This is ASEF’s special publication dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). It is a collection of articles by leaders and experts from Asia and Europe on the past, present and future of ASEM. Selected articles from this collection are compiled and published as a book by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), which was launched at the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) Summit in 2016 in Mongolia.

http://bit.ly/2op7rly

2016 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). On this occasion, ASEF presented a collection of photographs to represent Asian and European perceptions of people on the move. This book is a collection of these photographs, which were exhibited in several cities across Asia and Europe including Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia where the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) was held in July 2016.


These publications are also downloadable at www.ASEF.org/pubs/asef-publications.
**Websites**

**ASEF**
ASEF’s website is the first stop for information about the organisation. It showcases ASEF’s existing and upcoming events and other activities in the fields of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health. Visitors have access to information on participation as well as latest ASEF publications, news articles, and links to partner organisations. In 2016, the website received 399,185 visitors.

[www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org)

**ASEF CULTURE360**
It is a platform for information and collaboration among the cultural communities of Asia and Europe, including artists, cultural practitioners and policy-makers. In addition to opportunities and commissioned magazine articles, the portal initiates the development of resource guides. In 2016, the portal received 400,000 visits and counted over 5,000 registered members.

[www.culture360.ASEF.org](http://www.culture360.ASEF.org)

**ASEMUS**
This website is hosted on ASEF culture360 and promotes information exchange among museum professionals in Asia and Europe. In 2016, the website received 325,000 visitors.

[www.asemus.culture360.ASEF.org](http://www.asemus.culture360.ASEF.org)

**ASEF CLASSROOM NETWORK (ASEF CLASSNET)**
Launched in 1998, the ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet) provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) among secondary, vocational and high schools in ASEM partner countries. This web-portal serves as the main platform for communication, networking and collaboration among ASEF ClassNet’s teachers and students from Asia and Europe.

[www.aec.ASEF.org](http://www.aec.ASEF.org)

**ASEM INFOBOARD**
Mandated by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) partners, the ASEM InfoBoard is the one-stop information service for all ASEM affairs. It is the main source of information on the ASEM process and it plays a key role in elevating ASEM’s profile in the public eye.

[www.ASEMinfoboard.org](http://www.ASEMinfoboard.org)
Newsletters

ASEF eNEWSLETTER
ASEF’s eNewsletter is an information source for its latest and upcoming projects and activities. Published monthly, the eNewsletter currently reaches 18,774 subscribers in Asia and Europe.

ASEF CULTURE360 E-NEWSLETTER
culture360.ASEF.org disseminates a monthly e-newsletter featuring news, events, and opportunities in the field of arts and culture from Asia and Europe. In 2016, the newsletter reached over 11,000 subscribers.

ASEMUS E-NEWSLETTER
The Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) publishes a quarterly e-newsletter, which features news, events and opportunities across its cross-cultural network of museums in the member countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). In 2016, the newsletter reached 2,500 subscribers.

ASEF CLASSROOM NETWORK (ASEF CLASSNET)
This e-newsletter features the activities of the ASEF Classroom Network project series and its members. The newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and sent to about 1,400 subscribers.

ASEM INFOBOARD E-NEWSLETTER
The ASEM InfoBoard e-newsletter updates recipients every month on upcoming ASEM meetings and activities. The ASEM InfoBoard e-newsletter reaches out to over 1,000 subscribers and stakeholders monthly.
Social Media

**FACEBOOK**
ASEF Facebook

23,031 followers
3,001,337 impressions

Culture360
29,231 followers
1,635,866 impressions

ASEFEdu
13,881 followers
3,155,816 impressions

www.facebook.com/AsiaEuropeFoundation

**TWITTER**
ASEF Twitter

2,463 followers

Culture360
9,977 followers

ASEFEdu
143 followers

www.twitter.com/aseforg

**LINKEDIN**
ASEF LinkedIn

3,518 followers

www.linkedin.com/company/asia-europe-foundation

**YOUTUBE**
ASEF YouTube

437 subscribers
23 new videos

www.youtube.com/user/asiaeuropefoundation
Voices

“ASEF’s work contributes to promoting a fruitful dialogue on human rights and disability rights among governmental and non-governmental actors.”
Alessandra ARESU, Country Director, Handicap International Programme, China
November 2016

“Asia is undergoing a transformation similar to that in Europe two decades ago. With rapid urbanisation and depletion of natural resources, SUSTAINABILITY is the key word as we look ahead for the 21st century. ASEF is the only forum that provides opportunities to share knowledge, expertise and technologies between Asia and Europe.”
Surendra SHRESTHA, Vice President for Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand
October 2016

“I strongly support inclusive platforms like the Asia-Europe Environment Forum and am honoured to be representing the Swedish youth and youth organisations as part of this Forum.”
Romiana BIKASHA, Youth Representative to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Sweden
October 2016
Voices

“The 5th ASEM Rectors’ Conference is the perfect platform to bring together public and private parties, along with education system representatives, to share best practices and discuss concerted action.”
Alain DeHAZE, CEO of The Adecco Group, Belgium
April 2016

“ASEF is an important partner in reaching the vision of creating dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policy makers in order to contribute to evidence-based educational reform and innovation.”
Walter GABER, Vice President and Medical Director Frankfurt Airport, Germany
April 2016

“The joint ASEF-ECDC Workshop linking the emergency risk communication with public health preparedness went remarkably well. Such efforts at regional and global level shall lead to having a substantial control over the global public health threats.”
Syeda Maryam KHALID, Institutional Development Specialist at the Government of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
September 2016
## Financial Information

### Contributions received from ASEM Partners

Receipts have been converted to Singapore Dollars (SGD) at transaction date rates.

* Unaudited figures as at 02 May 2017

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The contributions received from ASEM partners are placed under the following funds in accordance with the declarations made by the contributors:

**a. Operating Fund** Contributions received are utilised for the operating requirements of ASEF.

**b. Project Fund** Contributions received are utilised for the funding of projects. In the case of trust funds, contributions received are earmarked for specific projects, the utilisation of which requires prior approval from the contributing member.

**c. Reserve Fund** Contributions received are invested, with income generated being used to finance activities of ASEF if necessary.

The Asia-Europe Foundation would like to acknowledge the ASEM partners which have seconded staff to the Foundation in the year 2016, namely China, France, Germany, and Singapore.
ASEF’s annual audit has not been completed at the time of printing. The financial figures reported on pages 69 to 70 are unaudited figures. ASEF’s audited financial statements are available separately at a later date.
Partners & Supporters

Partners

- Academy of Media Arts Cologne (Germany)
- AD Compagnie (France)
- Arts Council Malta (ACM)
- Arts Council of Mongolia (Mongolia)
- Arts Network Asia (ANA) (Singapore)
- ASEMEducation and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub) (Denmark)
- ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (Korea)
- Asia Culture Center (ACC) (Korea)
- Asia Culture Forum (Korea)
- Asia Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research (ANCER) (Singapore)
- Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) (Japan)
- Asian Research Center for Migration, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
- Asiatopia International Performance Art (Thailand)
- Association of Asian Culture Studies (Korea)
- Bangkok Art and Culture Center (Thailand)
- Beijing Jiaotong University (China)
- Bertelsmann Stiftung (Germany)
- Bruegel (Belgium)
- Caixin Insight Group (China)
- Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) (Cambodia)
- Casa Asia (Spain)
- Centre d’Etudes Prospectives et d’Informations Internationales (CEPII) (France)
- Charles University (Czech Republic)
- Chongyang Institute of Finance – Renmin University (China)
- Chonnam National Eurasia Institute (Korea)
- Confederation Mongolian Journalists (Mongolia)
- Council of Europe (CoE)
- Culture Industry Institute, Yunnan University (China)
- Department of Foreign Affairs (Philippines)
- DiploFoundation (Switzerland)
- Ecout, University of Valencia (Spain)
- Embassy of Sweden (Singapore)
- Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok (Thailand)
- European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs (EAVE) (Luxembourg)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- European Cultural Foundation (ECF) (Netherlands)
- European Heritage Association (Croatia)
- European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts) (Germany)
- European Union
- Far East Film Festival (Italy)
- Far Eastern University (FEU) (Philippines)
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA)
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Department (France)
- FutureEverything (United Kingdom)
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women; Embassy of Sweden, Phnom Penh (Cambodia)
- Goethe Institut (France)
- Green Art Lab Alliance (GALA)
- Guangdong Institute for International Strategies (GIIS)
- Gwangju Convention & Visitors Bureau (Korea)
- Gwangju Metropolitan City (Korea)
- Hanns Seidel Foundation (Germany)
- Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan)
- International Conference on Cultural Policy Research (ICCPR) (Korea)
- International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) (Australia)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe (Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) (Austria)
- Irkutsk State University (Russian Federation)
- Japan Centre, Pacific Basin Arts Communication (PARC) (Japan)
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Germany)
- Korea Arts Management Service (Korea)
- Korea Tourism Organisation (Korea)
- Korea University (Korea)
- Korean National Commission for UNESCO (Korea)
- LA SALLE College of the Arts (Singapore)
- Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (Singapore)
- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Korea)
- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Viet Nam)
- Ministry of Culture (France)
- Ministry of Culture (India)
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- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (China)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Czech Republic)
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