ASEF 20th Anniversary

The cover of this year’s Annual Report conveys significance on multiple levels.

Maintaining visual continuity with the 2016 Annual Report, this year’s Report presents the numerals 2017 as the centrepiece. The top half refers to the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) which was founded on 15 February 1997.

Taken as a whole, the numbers 2017 represent the year the Report is centred around. Besides highlighting ASEF’s activities over the course of the year, special events commemorating ASEF’s 20th Anniversary are also showcased within.

ASEF’s motto, “Diversity Creates”, is also featured. A succinct statement that expresses ASEF’s vision and culture, the motto was launched at the beginning of 2017 as a curtain raiser to the celebration of ASEF’s significant milestone of having reached its second decade.
ASEF Themes

Culture

ASEF promotes various forms of cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe, including policy dialogue platforms, information platforms, and support to artists. 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.

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.

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.
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 & Audit Committee (FAC), each with an equal Asian and European membership.

List of ASEF Governors (as at 31 March 2018)

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<td></td>
<td>Ambassador Hirubalan V P (until February 2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Ms Kate DUFF</td>
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<td>Mr Adrian LOCHRIN (until June 2017)</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Ms Gabriele MEON-TSCHÜRTZ</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Ambassador Andy DETAILLE</td>
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<td>Ambassador Gerard COCKX (until June 2017)</td>
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<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>Mr Adnan JAAFAR</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Mr CHEUY Vichet</td>
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<td>Mr AN Sokkhoeurn (until July 2017)</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>Ambassador ZHANG Xiaokang</td>
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<td>Ambassador LÜ Yongshou (until April 2017)</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Ambassador Dražen MARGETA</td>
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<td>Cyprus</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</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</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<td>Ambassador Claude BLANCHEMAISON (until March 2018)</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Professor Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Ambassador Paolo CRUDELE (until August 2017)</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Mr Songkane LUANGMUNINTHONE</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
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<td>Ambassador Dato’ HUSNI ZAI Yaacob (until May 2017)</td>
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<td>Malta</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
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<td>Ambassador Htay AUNG</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Ambassador Tormod Cappelen ENDRESEN (until September 2017)</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Professor Leo TAN Wee Hín</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Ambassador Radomír BOHÁČ (until October 2017)</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Ms Janja KLASINC</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Mr David NAVARRO</td>
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<td>Mr Ramón María Moreno GONZÁLEZ (until November 2017)</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
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Chair’s Message

“As ASEF’s multiplier of its bridging role is what makes ASEF especially valuable to the ASEM Process.”

I must first thank my predecessor, the former Chair of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Board of Governors, Ms Eva BIAUDET, for having been a most effective Chair in 2017. With the support of ASEF’s new Vice-Chair, Dr Steven EVERTS, as well as all Board members, I hope to build on the excellent work of my predecessors.

ASEF celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. In these 20 years, ASEF has served well as a bridge between Asia and Europe, promoting and facilitating mutual understanding and friendship between the 2 continents. ASEF has been connecting civil societies, bringing together peoples from diverse backgrounds to participate in projects and events in the 6 thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, public health and economy, as well as in the field of media.

More importantly, ASEF has also been connecting civil societies and governments. ASEF has its genesis in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and has served the ASEM Process well. This anniversarial year saw an ever-stronger synergy between ASEM and ASEF. Among many others, in conjunction with the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7), which was held in September 2017 in Seoul, Korea, ASEF organised the 14th Conference of the Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF14) and the 2nd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS2) as official side events. These events generated opportunities for direct exchanges between ASEM Ministers and ASEF participants. Similarly, the 8th Model ASEM and the 11th ASEF Journalists’ Seminar (ASEFJS11) were official side events of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13) in November in Naypyidaw, Myanmar. ASEF further contributed to the 6th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6), which was held in November 2017 in Seoul, Korea, by presenting policy recommendations from the 6th ASEF Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ASEFARC6).

As ASEF enters into its 21st year in 2018, ASEF is increasing efforts in tri-sectoral collaboration, engaging civil societies, governments and private sectors all together. Indeed, ASEF’s multiplier of its bridging role is what makes ASEF especially valuable to the ASEM Process.

I am particularly pleased that in the UNESCO’s 2018 Global Report, UNESCO acknowledged ASEF’s Mobility First! travel grant for artists as a “success story” in bridging existing gaps in support of artists’ mobility. This is a great achievement for ASEF especially since the recognition came at the end of the 1st year of the project’s implementation. It testifies to the increasingly global recognition for the relevance and impact of ASEF’s work beyond Asia and Europe.

ASEF’s achievements in all its areas of work would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the ASEM Partners, ASEF’s project partners and ASEF’s participants from all walks of life. It is with this support that Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF’s Executive Director, and his highly dedicated and extremely hardworking team members will continue to strive to greater heights in their respective areas of responsibilities.

My fellow ASEF Governors and I, too, will dutifully carry out our supervisory responsibilities as bestowed upon us by our respective ASEM governments to ensure that ASEF will continue to grow and flourish as an organisation of highest excellence.

Ambassador TUMUR Lkhagvadorj
Chair, ASEF Board of Governors (2018)
Executive Director’s Message

“...we will continue to strive for stronger synergies between ASEF’s work and the ASEM Process, and follow the policy directions of ASEM leaders by connecting them to the peoples of Asia and Europe through ASEF’s projects.”

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) turned 20 in 2017! Among many other activities, ASEF celebrated its 20th birthday with a launch of our “Diversity Creates” motto. The motto encapsulates the spirit of ASEF’s work over the past 20 years and heralds the next decade for ASEF. It was in this spirit that we organised a panel discussion themed “Asia & Europe: The Dawning of a New Era?” This event reunited well-known personalities long associated with ASEF such as Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN, the longest serving ASEF Governor and first Chair of the Board who was former Federal Minister of Economics of Germany, Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in Singapore and signatory of ASEF’s de facto ‘birth certificate’ in his earlier capacity as Permanent Secretary of the Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Professor Tommy KOH, Ambassador-at-Large at the Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ASEF’s first and founding Executive Director. The celebrations continued with yet another reunion event: a gathering of ASEF staff alumni. It was also in this anniversary year that we conceptualised the “ASEF Diversity Creates Award 1997-2017”.

In the field of education, we continued our efforts in channeling the voice of civil society to the policymakers. The 6th ASEF Rectors’ Conference & Students’ Forum (ASEFARC6) on “Future-ready Universities & Graduates: Quality Education Beyond the Horizon”, held in Singapore, was attended by 130 university leaders and representatives of civil society, government, and business. ARC6 representatives went on to present policy recommendations at the 6th ASEF Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6). During the 7th ASEF Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7), participants of the 2nd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS2), which brought together 150 young minds from 51 ASEM countries under the theme “Access to Youth Employment”, met with leaders attending the ASEM ME6.

We further introduced innovations in ASEF’s projects in the thematic area of governance. A training session was added as a key follow-up activity for the experts-led informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights to reinforce the impact of this project series. For the Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative, aimed at young diplomats from ASEM countries, the online training is now linked to the face-to-face training. These innovations have been highly appreciated by partners and participants.

Apart from the celebratory events, 2017 was another bountiful year of ASEF projects: We successfully implemented 24 projects consisting of nearly 150 offline and online activities, including 74 events in 35 partner countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). These activities engaged more than 120 partners and 64,500 attendees from Asia and Europe. Visitors on ASEF websites and various social media channels continued to increase, with over 270,000 visitors to the ASEF website as well as more than 200,000 followers on ASEF’s social media channels.

2017 saw the launch of an important cultural initiative: Mobility First!, a new fund which supports artists’ travel in Asia and Europe, facilitating cultural exchanges between the 2 continents. We also relaunched culture360.ASEF.org, the gateway to Asian-European cultural connectivity, on a new platform featuring the latest technologies and user-centered design.

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We organised more projects in conjunction with key ASEF meetings. With the enormous support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, the 8th Model ASEF, themed “Strengthening Partnership for Peace & Sustainable Development” and the 11th ASEF Journalists’ Seminar (ASEFJS11) under the theme “Shaping Public Perceptions & Minds towards Achieving the SDGs”, were held as official side-events of the 13th ASEF Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMFMM13).

Looking ahead, in every thematic area of ASEF’s work, we have set ourselves 3 key priorities. Firstly, we will continue to strive for stronger synergies between ASEF’s work and the ASEM Process, and follow the policy directions of ASEM leaders by connecting them to the peoples of Asia and Europe through ASEF’s projects. Secondly, we will actively increase tri-sectoral collaboration, that is, collaboration among civil societies, governments, and the private sector. Thirdly, we will work hard to be ever more inclusive in our outreach. In doing so, we will not only continue to pay attention to a fair Asian-European geographical balance in all our activities, but also to reach gender parity, as well as engage more youth and include persons with disabilities.

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Governors for their insightful guidance, the ASEF Senior Officials and Contact Points for their constant support, our partner organisations for their constructive collaborations, our participants for their active engagement, as well as my team for their strong dedication and hard work.

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE
ASEF Executive Director
ASEF Team

(as at 31 March 2018)

Ambassador
Karsten WARNECKE
Germany
Executive Director

SUN Xiangyang
China
Deputy Executive Director

Anupama SEKHAR
India
Director
Culture

Valentina RICCARDI
Italy
Project Manager
Culture

Preeti GAONKAR
India
Project Manager
Culture

Fatima AVILA
Philippines
Project Executive
Culture

Leonie NAGARAJAN
Germany
Director
Education

Angie TOH
Singapore
Senior Admin/
Project Manager
Education
Nathalie SAJDA  
Switzerland  
Project Manager  
Education

Oscar BOIJE  
Finland  
Project Executive  
Education

Maneeha CHOWDHURY  
Bangladesh  
Project Executive  
Education

Reka TOZSA  
Hungary  
Project Executive  
Education

Akhil Jacob THOMAS  
India  
Project Officer  
Education

Benoit MASSET  
Belgium  
Project Officer  
Education

Geneviève BARRÉ  
France  
Director  
Political & Economic

Puspa THANGAVELU  
Singapore  
Admin/ Project Manager  
Political & Economic

Armi Hannele AARNI  
Finland  
Project Manager  
Political & Economic
ASEF Team
(as at 31 March 2018)

Grażyna PULAWSKA
Poland
Project Manager
Sustainable Development

Riko KIMOTO
Japan
Project Executive
Public Health

Trishia OCTAVIANO
Philippines
Project Executive
Sustainable Development & Public Health

Nur A’in A. RAZAK
Singapore
Project Officer
Sustainable Development

TEE Bee Lock
Singapore
Director
Communications

Angelina CHEW
Singapore
Admin/
Communications Executive
Communications

Jules CHAN
Singapore
Communications Executive
Communications

Natalie HONG
China
Chief of Staff
Executive Office

HUANG Haiqi
China
Office Assistant
Executive Office
• ASEF Policy Panels
• ASEF at Global Forums
• Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative 2017
• Creative Encounters – Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe: 5th Edition
• ASEF culture360
• WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies

Culture

“The Creative Mobilities Forum was a great opportunity for me to meet people I will collaborate with in the future. I also learned about different projects and approaches from different countries which I will now utilize in Jeju.”

Eun-Joo Ahn
General Manager,
Jeju Olle Foundation

#CulturalMobility
#ASEFculture

“I plan to develop a new music festival & it was important to exchange ideas with a diverse group & to learn how festivals are run in different countries. The most interesting thing for me was to know how funding works in China.”

Lusa CAIYIO
Festival Manager

Portugal • China

Supported by #MobilityFirst

#CulturalMobility
#ASEFculture
ENGAGED MUSEUMS: TECHNOLOGY, ACCESS AND NEW AUDIENCES

Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)
7th ASEMUS General Conference

“Creating relationships with other ASEAN filmmakers is crucial in the development and movement of ASEAN cinema through the exchange of cinematic experience and culture.”

Sharon DAYOC
Filmmaker
Philippines ➔ Lao PDR
Supported by #MobilityFirst

#CulturalMobility
#ASEFCulture

Courtesy of the Samdani Art Foundation. Photography by Noor Photoface.
Conversation Platforms

ASEF facilitates conversations on topics of mutual interest for Asia and Europe in the arts, culture, and heritage. This area of work also supports the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) by feeding civil society inputs to the Cultural Ministers’ Meetings.

ASEF Policy Panels

ASEF facilitated panel discussions at several key conferences in Asia and Europe, including:

- 7th Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) General Conference 15–17 March 2018, New Delhi, India
  - Engaging with Regional Culture & Heritage: What Role for Regional Museums?
  - Towards a Culture of Accessibility in our Museums: Good Practices & Challenges

- 2nd United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Culture Summit 10–13 May 2017, Jeju, Korea
  - Asian Networks of Cities for Culture

- European Development Days (EDD 2017) 7–8 June 2017, Brussels, Belgium
  - Investing in Creativity: The Future is Now

  - Can Living Networks Embrace Change While Retaining Their Spirit?

- Europe-Asia Roundtable Sessions (EARS) on Mumbai 6–9 December 2017, Mumbai, India
  - Collaboration Fuelling Artistic Exploration
  - Scaling New Vibes – Festival Stories from Asia and Europe

ASEF supported a panel on “Asian Networks of Cities for Culture” at the 2nd United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Culture Summit.

Partners
ASEF at Global Forums

In 2017, ASEF was invited to discuss the current situation of Asia-Europe cultural cooperation at various platforms around the world, including:

- UNESCO World Press Freedom Day (3 May 2017, Jakarta, Indonesia)
- Culture Action Europe – Beyond the Obvious: Belonging and Becoming (15–17 November 2017, Rome, Italy)

In addition, ASEF facilitated the preparation of a civil society report on trends, issues and challenges in contemporary artistic practice in Asia and Europe, which was presented at UNESCO Headquarters on 15 December 2017 in Paris, France.

ASEF also commissioned the Regionally Speaking project to Griffith University. Regionally Speaking explores the contemporary arts landscape in Southeast Asia through a compilation of personal journeys of cultural practitioners from the region.

In 2017, ASEF supported EARS on Mumbai which brought together key international culture professionals to network, explore opportunities and share best practices.

ASEF organised a panel on “Can living networks embrace change while retaining their spirit?” at the 25th ENCATC Congress.

ASEF’s Director for Culture, Ms Anupama SEKHAR (third from right) presenting recommendations from civil society at UNESCO, at the Intergovernmental Committee Meeting of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
Support to Artists

ASEF funds and facilitates cultural mobility and co-creation projects that connect Asian and European artists, cultural networks and arts organisations. This area of work responds to ASEF’s mandate of promoting greater people-to-people connectivity between Asia and Europe.

Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative 2017

2017
Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia

Cultural mobility is integral to the practice and career of artists and cultural professionals in Asia and Europe. Yet, mobility funding remains a major challenge for most artists. In celebration of ASEF’s 20th Anniversary, Mobility First! was launched in 2017 to respond to this gap by supporting the international travel of artists and cultural practitioners in Asia-Europe and Asia-Asia contexts. In its first year, Mobility First! enabled 73 artists and cultural practitioners to participate in 33 events across 23 ASEM countries. These events included a wide range of cultural activities such as conferences, workshops, residencies, festivals, and networking meetings in the ASEM region.

At the end of its first year, Mobility First! has gained global recognition for its relevance and impact. In its “Re-shaping Cultural Policies: Advancing creativity for development – 2005 Convention Global Report” published in 2017, UNESCO has acknowledged ASEF’s Mobility First! as one of the success stories by a multilateral intergovernmental organisation in bridging existing gaps in support of artists’ mobility.
ASEF enabled 2 arts practitioners from Indonesia and Malaysia to take part in The Producers’ Academy workshop (10–13 May, Brussels, Belgium).

ASEF enabled 4 aspiring journalists from Japan, Malaysia, Poland, and Singapore to participate in the Far East Film Festival (FEFF) Campus (20–30 April, Udine, Italy).

ASEF enabled 5 filmmakers to partake in the Five Flavours Film Festival (15–22 November 2017, Warsaw, Poland). In photo: LE Binh Giang (Viet Nam).

Partners
Creative Encounters – Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe: 5th Edition

19–28 February 2017
Sylhet & Dhaka, Bangladesh

In 2010, Creative Encounters was launched as a project series to support an existing grassroots demand for ongoing support to co-productions among Asian and European artists. 5 editions of the project have taken place from 2010 to 2017, supporting 50 events in 25 ASEM countries, with 429 ASEF-supported participants overall. Having completed a 7-year cycle, Creative Encounters is currently being evaluated to better understand the long-term impact of the project series and the suitability of its format to support more artistic collaborations in future.

In 2017, the 5th edition was instrumental in fostering an unusual connection – between Poland and Bangladesh – through the Samdani Seminars. For the second time, ASEF supported work at the intersection of art and health with the involvement of patients in drug rehabilitation (the first being the 10th Asia-Europe Young Volunteers’ Exchange: Health on Stage held in India in 2010). The Samdani Seminars encouraged art in public spaces, and initiated community participation in the arts.

Partners

**Information Platforms**

ASEF offers relevant, up-to-date and readily-accessible information on arts, culture, and heritage from Asia and Europe. This area of work responds to existing information gaps that hinder deeper collaborations between the 2 regions.

### ASEA culture360

2017
Online

ASEF culture360 (culture360.ASEF.org) is an online arts and culture portal focusing on news and analysis on the arts sector in all ASEM member countries. This digital platform provides relevant, updated, and publicly-accessible information through weekly updates on events and funding opportunities aggregated from across the Internet. It also features a magazine with commissioned articles on topics of common interest for Asia and Europe, while resources like country cultural profiles provide in-depth information on each ASEM partner country. Other resource guides of direct use to artists and arts practitioners are regularly commissioned and available for free download.

In 2017, the portal marked its 9th year with a complete technical revamp featuring the latest technologies in terms of mobile browsing, user-centered design, and a state-of-the-art search engine. In addition, the new platform follows the accessibility guidelines for people with disabilities.

Among other projects, ASEF culture360 published the 3rd Guide in the “Creative Responses to Sustainability Series” in 2017. The Indonesia Guide looks at the connection between art and sustainability, mapping significant and pioneering cultural initiatives across the country that engage with social and environmental issues. In collaboration with On the Move (OTM), ASEF culture360 has also been jointly presenting the “Mobility Funding Guides for International Cultural Exchange” in 51 ASEM partner countries since 2012. In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2017, updated guides for the 10 countries of the ASEAN region have been published. This update was followed by 3 new Guides for China, Japan, and Korea.

### WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies

2017
Online

ASEF has supported the WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies from 2011 to 2017, in partnership with the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA). During this time, country reports on policy issues and trends related to arts and culture were commissioned, which aimed to enhance public access to reliable national and international cultural policy information. In 2017, the lead partner, IFACCA, decided to end the project. However, the need for information systems on cultural policies and trends remains an urgent priority, which was also acknowledged by UNESCO in its “Re-shaping Cultural Policies: Advancing creativity for development – 2005 Convention Global Report” (2017). In light of this, ASEF is currently undertaking an evaluation and needs assessment towards developing a new information system.
• 6th ASEF Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARC6)
• 1st International Conference of European and Asian Researchers and Educators on Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development (I-CEARE 2017)
• 8th Model ASEM in conjunction with the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13)
• 2nd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS2) in conjunction with the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7)
• 13th ASEF Classroom Network Conference (ASEF ClassNet13) in conjunction with Research Conference by the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub)
• Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off 2017
• Model ASEM Singapore Spin-off 2017
• 2nd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS2) Capacity Training
ASEF Education Policy Programme

The ASEF Education Policy Programme facilitates practice-based and policy-oriented dialogues and solutions with a focus on cooperation between education, business and industry sectors. Projects within the programme address key priorities of the ASEM Education Process like quality and inclusive education, lifelong learning, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and tri-sectoral partnerships.

6th ASEF Rectors’ Conference & Students’ Forum (ARC6)

9–13 October 2017
Singapore

ARC6 was organised in partnership with the Singapore Management University (SMU) and gathered over 180 participants, including university leaders, regional organisations, business representatives and students from all 51 ASEM partner countries. The multi-stakeholder platform was themed “Future-ready Universities and Graduates: Quality Education Beyond the Horizon”, and consisted of 2 programme elements: a Students’ Forum, followed by the Rectors’ Conference. Both elements included panel discussions, skills trainings, study visits, and working group sessions that focused on the following 3 sub-topics: (1) Interdisciplinarity in Education and Research, (2) Lifelong Learning: Holistic and Global Education, and (3) Access to Quality Education. ARC6 resulted in 2 sets of policy recommendations, representing the perspectives of universities as well as students. The recommendations were then conveyed at the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6) that took place from 21–22 November 2017 in Seoul, Korea.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
1st International Conference of European and Asian Researchers and Educators on Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development (I-CEARE 2017)

12–14 May 2017
Boracay Island, Philippines

More than 150 researchers and educators from Asia and Europe participated in the conference with the theme, “Universities and Communities in Asia and Europe: Creating Meaning for Sustainable Development”.

I-CEARE 2017 provided a platform for Asian and European researchers and educators to converse, share perspectives, and create cross-cultural partnerships on non-formal lifelong education. The participants’ work also responded to Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, as well as the priorities of the ASEM Education Process.

The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub) organised the conference in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Danish School of Education at Aarhus University in Denmark, and in partnership with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), National Association of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines (NAUCP), UNESCO Philippines, and Philippine Normal University (PNU).

Partners

Prof. Atanacio PANAHON delivering a training on sustainable entrepreneurship during I-CEARE 2017

Participants listening intently to the sessions at I-CEARE 2017
Education

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 policymakers and business leaders.

8th Model ASEM in conjunction with the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13)

15–20 November 2017
Yangon & Naypyidaw, Myanmar

Over 160 students from all 51 ASEM Partner countries participated in the 8th Model ASEM, a political simulation of ASEM FMM13. The conference provided students the opportunity to experience Asia-Europe diplomacy first-hand through role-play exercises and practical trainings, enhancing their diplomacy, negotiation, and public-speaking skills. Abiding by ASEM FMM13 procedures, participants negotiated a Chair’s Statement, which was handed over to the Union Minister of Education of Myanmar, Dr Myo Thein Gyi. As part of the ASEM FMM13 Direct Leadership Exchange Reception, the students also visited several ASEM diplomatic missions based in Myanmar and met ASEM Foreign Ministers and leaders as well as Senior Officials. 4 participants were invited to make a youth intervention at the Opening Ceremony of ASEM FMM13, to present the ASEM Foreign Ministers with the youth’s views on ASEM’s future direction.

Partners

Supporters
The 5-day ASEFYLS2 conference on “Access to Youth Employment” focused on addressing the complex challenges faced by young people finding employment in the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution, and proposed solutions with a Call for Action. Over 100 young professionals and students participated in lectures, workshops, and skills trainings linked to 8 thematic areas that are crucial for job creation and inclusion, namely: (1) age, (2) education, (3) disability, (4) finance, (5) gender, (6) location, (7) social backgrounds, and (8) technology. 8 ASEFYLS2 representatives were invited to join the official welcome reception of the ASEM EMM7 as delegates, and several participants also had the opportunity to meet their respective Minister of Economy or Senior Officials from the Ministry. The conference concluded with the development of the Call for Action, which was conveyed to the ASEM EMM7 Delegations by ASEF.
13th ASEF Classroom Network Conference (ASEF ClassNet13) in conjunction with Research Conference by the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub)

8–11 September 2017
Zug, Switzerland

At the 13th ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet) Conference, more than 100 researchers, teacher trainers, and secondary, vocational and high school teachers from over 40 ASEM countries gathered to address the theme of "Theory Meets Practice: Teacher Training in the Digital Era". Participants explored and identified the competencies of teachers, adult educators and trainers that are required for education and training in the digital era across ASEM countries. The findings were documented as recommendations for researchers, policymakers, and academic practitioners.

The Conference took place at the University of Teacher Education Zug, and consisted of workshops, presentations, and panels focusing on teacher training through the lens of lifelong learning. For the 2017 ASEF ClassNet Awards, 6 case studies of digital online collaborations conducted by teachers and students of ASEF ClassNet were also featured, which were judged and awarded based on their uniqueness and multicultural elements.

Co-organisers

Partners

Supporters

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off 2017

1 March 2017
Lausanne, Switzerland

On the occasion of the inaugural ASEM Day, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) organised the Model ASEM Switzerland Spin-off 2017. The youth conference was organised in partnership with the Diplo Foundation, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), and Model United Nations EPFL, and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). As the 4th spin-off edition of the Model ASEM series, this project brought together about 60 local and international students from Swiss universities to discuss “A Stronger Partnership for Future Generations”. During the 1-day political simulation, the students not only advanced their public speaking and negotiation skills, but also enhanced their understanding of the ASEM Process and its role in strengthening the political, economic and socio-cultural links between Asia and Europe.
Education

Model ASEM Singapore Spin-off 2017

8–10 December 2017
Singapore

50 students from ASEM countries participated in the Model ASEM Singapore Spin-off 2017, which was independently organised and run by students from the ASEM Young Leaders Network. During the 2-day political simulation organised under the theme of “Navigating Uncertainties: Defining Digital Frontiers”, the students developed a consensus-based Model ASEM Chair’s Statement, and visited several ASEM Embassies in Singapore. The conference was supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Ridge View Residential College (RVRC) from the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the National Youth Council of Singapore (NYC).

Partners

![RVRC Logo]

![NYC Logo]

![NUS Logo]

Group photo of participants at the Model ASEM Singapore Spin-off 2017
2nd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS2) Capacity Training

4–5 July 2017
Thessaloniki, Greece

9–10 October 2017
Vientiane, Lao PDR

A spin-off project linked to ASEFYLS2, the ASEF Capacity Training 2017 series offered action-oriented workshops to fine-tune job skills and competence among youths. Focused on leadership skills and employment management, the workshops were held in Thessaloniki, Greece, and Vientiane, the Lao PDR.

The ASEF Capacity Training in Thessaloniki, Greece, on the theme of “Public speaking and Negotiation” attracted more than 60 local students, entrepreneurs, and young professionals. ASEF conducted this training in partnership with Erasmus Student Network Greece (ESN Greece), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and Global Changemakers from Switzerland.

With the theme of “Public speaking and leadership skills”, the ASEF Capacity Training in Vientiane, the Lao PDR, was attended by over 60 Laotian youths. Participants were engaged in interactive workshop modules, developing skills that are essential in the employment market. The Training was made possible through partnership with Global Changemakers from Switzerland and the National University of Laos.
• 17th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: “Human Rights and Children”

• Disabilities, Social Inclusion and Human Rights: Good Practices from Asia and Europe

• Nothing about us without us: Enhancing participation of persons with disabilities in political and cultural life in Asia and Europe

• Training: “Human Rights and Persons with Disabilities”

• Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative 2017 – 5th Online Training

• Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative 2017 – 5th Face-to-face Training

7–9 November 2017
Sofia, Bulgaria

In 2017, the 17th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights was held on 7–9 November in Sofia, Bulgaria. Under the theme of “Human Rights and Children”, the Seminar brought together over 100 experts, professionals, academics, civil society and government officials from Asia and Europe to address the status of the rights of children. The focus was on the protection and promotion of children’s rights from a human rights perspective, in particular how their rights could be reinforced at the regional and national level. Participants advocated for an interconnected
4-Pillar Approach of: (1) Recognition, (2) Participation, (3) Protection, and (4) Empowerment of children’s rights.

3 simultaneous closed-door working groups discussed the following topics in detail: International Partnership and State Provision for Survival and Development of Children, Protection of Vulnerable Children, and Participation and Involvement of Children in Decision-making. The Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria, Mr Biser PETROV, emphasised the need to act on poverty reduction and social exclusion of children, while Mr Georg GEORGIEV, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, underscored the importance of communication and maintaining an open 3-way dialogue among national governments, civil society actors, and international stakeholders. Ms Mikiko OTANI, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, was the Keynote Speaker at this event, and elaborated on the importance of building a culture of peace by recognising children as active participants in our global village.

The Seminar was hosted through the collaboration between 3 government bodies of the Republic of Bulgaria (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and the State Agency for Child Protection), and the Co-Organisers of the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (France, Sweden, the Philippines, and Switzerland).
Outcomes of the 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

Based on the outcomes of the 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights that focused on the topic of “Human Rights and Persons with Disabilities”, ASEF organised 2 policy briefings: a presentation at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York and a policy briefing at the Institut Français in Jakarta, which was co-hosted by the Embassy of France in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, and the European Union Delegation to Indonesia. The aim was to exchange best practices and lessons learnt from across Asia and Europe, and highlighted the need for ASEM countries to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Disabilities, Social Inclusion and Human Rights: Good Practices from Asia and Europe

26 July 2017
French Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia

Regional experts from Asia and Europe elaborated on the Key Message of the 16th Seminar, and tried to raise awareness of the plight of disabled people in ASEM countries. The policy briefing was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr Jean-Charles BERTHONNET (Ambassador of the Republic of France to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN), Mr Charles-Michel GEURTS (Chargé d’Affaires, European Union Delegation to Indonesia), Mr Rolf RING (Deputy Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden), Dr Gerard QUINN (Director of the Centre for Disability and Policy, NUI Galway, Scientific Committee Member of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), Dr Mu’man NURYANA (Chair of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development), Ms Yeni ROSDIANTI (Indonesian Commission of Human Rights), and Ms Zara TODD (Incoming Director, European Network on Independent Living). All speakers emphasised the need to include persons with disabilities in policy-making and decision-making processes.

Co-Hosts

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
Nothing About Us Without Us: Enhancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Political and Cultural Life in Asia and Europe

14 June 2017
United Nations (UN) Headquarters, New York, USA

The 16th Informal ASEM Human Rights Seminar outcomes were presented on the occasion of the globe’s biggest disability meeting, the 10th United Nations Conference of State Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN COSP10) at the UN Headquarters in New York.

ASEF organised a side-event in collaboration with the International Disability Alliance and CBM, which featured prominent speakers including Ms Rosemary KAYESS (University of South Wales and contributor to the 16th Seminar’s publication), Ms Nadia HADAD (European Disability Forum: European Network on Independent Living), Mr Sebastian KESSLER (Swiss Delegation to the UN COSP), and Ms Risna UTAMI (Indonesian National Consortium for Disability Rights). The speakers addressed ways to increase the day-to-day political and cultural involvement of persons with disability in all aspects of public life.

Partners

Panellists at the side-event of the United Nations Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN COSP) in UN Headquarters, New York
Training: “Human Rights & Persons with Disabilities”

24–28 July 2017
Jakarta, Indonesia

The Training of Human Rights is a new component introduced in 2017 to highlight the outcomes of the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights to an audience of professionals.

The topic of the 1st Training was “Human Rights & Persons with Disabilities”, and was organised as a follow-up to the 16th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights held in November 2016 Beijing, China. It built on the discussions and deliberations at the 16th Seminar, with the objective to increase participants’ knowledge on human rights and disabilities in the context of Asia and Europe, as well as enhance their capacity to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in their daily work. The training material also drew heavily from the Key Message and outcomes of the 16th Seminar.

Over 30 participants attended the Training designed by the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), and were given the opportunity for exchange and learning during the group activities. Led by a mix of Asian and European disability experts with professional experience in the areas of disability rights and international human rights law, the trainers conducted capacity-building sessions for government officials, representatives from disabled people’s organisations (DPOs), and regional and international organisations.

The Indonesia Disabled People’s Association (Perkumpulan Penyandang Disabilitas Indonesia/PPDI) hosted this Initiative in collaboration with the MAHKOTA Program (Indonesia-Australia Partnership Towards a Strong and Prosperous Indonesian Society) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (MoFA-RI).

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 academics.
The Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative in 2017

For the 5th edition of the Initiative, a new concept was developed: having the same group of participants attend both the Online Training and the Face-to-face Training. 29 diplomats and young professionals from 23 Asian and European ASEM Partners first “met” online and followed the interactive e-course from their home countries, before physically meeting for a week-long training where they got to know each other better, shared their views, and created a network.

5th Online Training

3 July 2017 – 8 September 2017

The 10-week Online Training targeted young diplomats who work in the Asia or Europe Departments of ASEM Ministries of Foreign Affairs, or diplomats posted at embassies in ASEM countries dealing with public diplomacy issues. Via the e-learning course, 29 diplomats and young professionals from 23 Asian and European ASEM Partners gained invaluable insights into the current perceptions of diplomacy efforts in Asia and Europe, and learned how to incorporate public diplomacy skills into their daily work.

5th Face-to-face Training

9–13 October 2017
Jakarta, Indonesia

Following the successful completion of the Online Training, the same group of 23 diplomats and young professionals took part in the 5th Face-to-face Training in Jakarta, Indonesia. In addition to acquiring core public 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 importance of public diplomacy for nation branding. Indonesian ASEF Governor, Ambassador Soemadi BROTODININGRAT and Swiss ASEF Governor, Ambassador Thomas KUPFER also shared their knowledge and understanding of the new diplomacy with the younger generation of diplomats who are facing new challenges.

The Training was hosted by the Directorate General of American and European Affairs, and the Centre for Education and Training of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (MOFA Indonesia).
- Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) Annual Conference
- CLMV Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation
- Lao PDR National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation
- Cambodia National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation
- ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF)
- Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum Side-Event at COP23
- Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum at the ENVforum Annual Conference
Sustainable Development

Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
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 policymakers 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.

ENVforum Annual Conference

6–7 September 2017
Hanoi, Viet Nam

In 2017, the ENVforum held a 2-day conference entitled, “Sustainable Development Goals and Financing: No Longer Business as Usual”. The conference targeted various stakeholders from Asia and Europe working on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and covered different aspects of the implementation with a focus on financing and partnerships. The first day of the conference explored the financing options and the role of partnerships, while sessions on the second day focused on low carbon development, climate financing, and sustainable practices, contributing to the Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum. H.E. Mr NGUYEN The Phuong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam, introduced the topic from a Vietnamese perspective in his Keynote Remarks. He highlighted the Vietnamese government’s emphasis on the implementation of the SDGs, as well as the government’s focus on all stakeholders involved, including the private sector and national organisations.

Participants of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) Annual Conference 2017

Dr George SAFONOV presenting the outcomes of a workshop facilitated by Mr Florian BERANEK of UNIDO

The forum covered themes on financing, partnerships and low carbon development.

Partners

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
CLMV Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

14–15 February 2017
Naypyitaw, Myanmar

For the last 4 years, the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam) have been engaged in a facilitated dialogue, which provided them with an informal platform to exchange their experiences and challenges related to the implementation of SDGs. In 2017, the CLMV Regional Conference was themed as “Sustainable Development Goals Delivery: Planning for Implementation”, and it aimed to prepare and encourage CLMV representatives to volunteer for reporting to the High-Level Political Forum, which is the United Nations’ central platform for follow-up and review on each country’s national implementation progress for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The conference was opened with keynote remarks by the Deputy Union Minister Mr U Maung Maung WIN, who underlined the importance of enhanced regional cooperation in Southeast Asia, which has the potential to turn challenges into opportunities.

The key thematic areas of the workshop covered the means of SDGs implementation and monitoring.

Partners

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

Participants of the CLMV SDGs Implementation Workshop
Lao PDR National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

5–6 June 2017
Vientiane, Lao PDR

As part of the facilitated dialogue for the CLMV countries, ENVforum held a 2-day capacity-building workshop on SDGs entitled “Sustainable Development Goals Delivery: Planning for Implementation” for policymakers from the Lao PDR involved in implementing the SDGs. The discussions included the topics of: the United Nations as a partner in delivering the 2030 Agenda at the national level; the follow-up and review framework at the global and national levels; using the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to monitor implementation progress at the national level; and the ownership and financing options for SDGs in Southeast Asia. In her keynote speech, Ms Phonevanh OUTHAVONG, Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR, stressed that the way forward was to define data processing and create a capacity-building plan for data processing and analysis.
Cambodia National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

7–8 December 2017
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The ENVforum co-organised a national workshop entitled “Cambodia National Workshop on SDGs Implementation: National Implementation Challenges” as part of its facilitated dialogue for CLMV countries. This workshop was designed for representatives and negotiators from the relevant line ministries and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of SDGs in Cambodia. Cambodian Secretary of State from the Ministry of Planning, H.E. Mr Toun THAVRAK, gave a keynote speech which stressed the need to set priorities for the specific SDGs and indicators to focus on, given the limited funding available. Participants took part in working groups to discuss the action points for the implementation of SDGs in Cambodia in 4 focus areas: monitoring; financing and fundraising; coordination/collaboration for implementation; and planning and priority setting.

Partners

ASIA-EUROPE ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Hanns Seidel Foundation

Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

Participants at the National Implementation Challenges Workshop
ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development

25–26 May 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

ASEF provided substantial intellectual support to and facilitated this Thai ASEM initiative. The objectives of the symposium were to promote sharing of experiences, best practices and expertise among ASEM Partners on policy, and to provide a platform for networking and forging partnership among ASEM Partners for future collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs through various approaches. Panellists from Thailand, the European Union (EU), China, Germany, Viet Nam, Finland, Japan, Switzerland, and the Philippines were invited to share their experiences in the sustainable development field and explore ways to encourage cooperation between Asia and Europe in achieving the SDGs. The ENVforum contributed to the session on “Approaches to Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals”, which explored alternative and innovative means of implementing the SDGs.
Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF)

30 October – 1 November 2017
Incheon, Korea

The ENVforum hosted the 4th session on SDGs and Finance in the forum entitled “SDG Mainstreaming and Means of Implementation: A Retrospective and Prospective View”. The session which built on the ENVforum Annual Conference held in Hanoi, explored a variety of financing options for the SDGs, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and newer or more innovative sources of funding, including Islamic finance and various taxes. ENVforum has been a knowledge partner to the Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF) organised by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) since its inception in 2014.

Partners

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

Participants at the Sustainable Development Transition Forum
Sustainable Development

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 Side-Event at COP23

13 November 2017
Bonn, Germany

The side-event, “Climate and Energy Policies Towards a Low Carbon Future in Asia and Europe”, was jointly organised with the Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLAP), and was hosted by the government of Korea in their national pavilion at the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23). It sought to enhance international dialogue and knowledge exchange on development strategies for low-carbon solutions in Asia and Europe. Along with experts experienced in analysing and drafting low emission growth strategies, participants explored opportunities and identified challenges in the development of a low carbon roadmap.
Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum at the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) Annual Conference

6–7 September 2017
Hanoi, Viet Nam

The Asia-Europe Energy Policy Forum collaborated with the ENVforum Annual Conference in 2017 by supporting the organisation of sessions focusing on low carbon development, climate financing, and sustainable practices during the special panel dedicated to low carbon development.
• High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies: “Risk Communication & Leadership during Health Emergencies”

• Regional Training on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies
High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies: “Risk Communication & Leadership during Health Emergencies”

14–15 June 2017
Seoul, Korea

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) jointly organised a High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies. This 5th edition of the ASEF Public Health Network’s series of risk communication events since 2013 was held as a “meeting” for the first time.

The Meeting brought together 32 public health experts from 15 different Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Partners and international organisations. The Meeting consisted of a keynote speech, high-level and interactive panel discussions on public health emergencies and a debate on the final recommendations as an output. It also provided a platform for exchanging best practices through conducting scenario-based group discussions.

In addition to the overall aim of strengthening policymakers’ capacity to support risk communications in times of health emergencies, the Meeting identified difficulties in decision-making and communicating with the public. Likewise, it addressed the complexity and the role of emergency risk communication (ERC) in the context of crisis management beyond the health sector. The Meeting highlighted the importance of inter-sectoral coordination between decision-makers and their respective spokespersons.

This project is sponsored by the Government of Japan.
Regional Training on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies

25–27 September 2017
Hanoi, Viet Nam

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Public Health Network and the General Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health Viet Nam (GDPM-MoH) jointly organised a 3-day Regional Training on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies. Over 40 officials working in the area of risk communication across ASEAN+3 countries’ Ministries of Health gathered to share experience, learn and network to combat potential pandemics in the future.

The training covered the basics of crisis and emergency risk communication (CERC), including the psychology of a crisis, stakeholder and partner communications and the use of social media. Participants were actively engaged during sessions with the aim to increase understanding of the risk communication components of a joint external evaluation as well as national planning. The training also introduced the concept of a joint information centre and its variation, and participants visited the Emergency Operation Centre of the Ministry of Health, Viet Nam at the end of the training.

Partner

This project is sponsored by the Government of Japan.
• 14th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF14)
14th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF14)

20–21 September 2017
Seoul, Korea

AEEF14 took place from 20–21 September 2017 in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7) hosted by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea (MOTIE).

In 2017, the AEEF brought together high-level economists, representatives of ministries and corporations to exchange and elaborate on the topic of “Prospects for the Asia-Europe Economic Cooperation in a New World Order”, which covered not only the Forum’s traditional interests in global macroeconomic developments and international trade, but also addressed 2 new issues: the 4th Industrial Revolution and digitalisation as well as climate change and energy.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Employment, Economy and Consumer Affairs of the Federal Government of Belgium, Mr Kris PEETERS, who was invited as Keynote Speaker, shared his views on the topic of “Strengthening Digital Connectivity in the ASEM Area”.

Consortium members also presented the conclusions of the AEEF14 at the ASEM EMM7. The interaction between both events provided the opportunity to enlarge the scope of the forum and allowed the AEEF’s work and outcomes to feed into the discussions at the ASEM EMM7. By providing expert analysis and inputs for innovative and integrated policy recommendations, the AEEF contributes to the ASEM process.

With the support of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the event was jointly organised by consortium members including Korea University Centre for East Asian Studies (Korea), Asian Development Bank Institute (Japan), Peking University (China) on the Asian side, and Bruegel (Belgium), Bertelsmann Stiftung (Germany), Centre d’Etudes Prospectives et d’Informations Internationales (France) on the European side.
(Left) Kris PEETERS, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Employment and Consumer Affairs of the Federal Government of Belgium, was the Keynote Speaker at the Forum.
Other Projects

11th ASEF Journalists’ Seminar (ASEFJS11)

17–22 November 2017
Naypyidaw, Myanmar

Themed “Shaping Public Perceptions and Minds towards Achieving the SDGs”, the ASEFJS11 was organised in conjunction with the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13) in Naypyidaw, Myanmar. The Seminar gathered over 40 journalists from 23 ASEM partner countries and provided a platform for journalists and reporters from Asia and Europe to exchange ideas, good practices, and challenges they face in reporting on sustainable development. Participants also explored how media outlets and journalists can contribute to shaping positive perceptions and mindsets among ASEM societies about sustainability and the achievability of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The core programme consisted of 2 days of panel discussions and workshops, which addressed the main theme through the prism of Environment, Education, and Culture. The participating journalists were also accredited to attend and cover the ASEM FMM13, providing them with first-hand exposure to the official ASEM Process.

Partner

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

Panellists at the 2-day Seminar discussing the role that media can play in supporting sustainable development.
ASEF 20\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Activities

20\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Motto: ‘Diversity Creates’

As a curtain raiser to ASEF’s 20\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary in 2017, ASEF launched its motto – “Diversity Creates”. The succinct statement was the outcome of distilling the top 5 entries selected from an online contest and after considerable brainstorming. “Diversity” defines ASEF’s work and celebrates ASEF’s character, and it will continue to be ASEF’s driving force into the future. “Creates” is action-oriented, inspires positive emotions, and promises great possibilities.
ASEF 20th Anniversary Activities

Panel Discussion on “Asia & Europe: The Dawning of a New Era?”

8 June 2017
Singapore

Co-organised by ASEF, the Foreign Correspondents’ Association (FCA) Singapore and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), the Panel Discussion themed “Asia & Europe: The Dawning of a New Era?”, attracted nearly 300 attendees. Among them were ASEF Governors, Heads of Missions and other senior diplomats in Singapore, as well as representatives from international organisations, universities and the private sector.

In his keynote speech, Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI, Dean of LKYSPP, said, “Let Asia and Europe work together and strengthen its hand”, emphasising the need for the 2 regions to come together through the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and create institutions on global governance.

“We have the unique opportunity to act in tandem to champion free trade, globalisation, and sustainable development”, said Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large from the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ASEF’s first and founding Executive Director. He also commented on the implications of the shifting US foreign policy under President Donald TRUMP for Asia-Europe relations.

ASEF’s Executive Director, Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE also mentioned that the event was an example of how “Diversity Creates”, alluding to the organisation’s tagline that celebrates its history of creating connections between Asia and Europe: “ASEF brings people from different professional, cultural and political backgrounds together to create something new – new ideas, new perspectives, new solutions for a better future”.

The panel of experts comprised Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN, the longest-serving ASEF Governor and ASEF’s first Chair, who was the former Federal Minister of Economics of Germany, Dr KIM Gwang-jo, Director of the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Professor Beatrice WEDER DI MAURO, Emerging Markets Institute at INSEAD Singapore, and Ms Hillary BRIFFA, Doctoral Candidate from King’s College London. The Panel Discussion was moderated by Ms Sharanjit LEYL, BBC Presenter and Producer and FCA President.
ASEF 20th Anniversary Staff Alumni Party

30 June 2017
Singapore

As part of a series of commemorative events, the ASEF 20th Anniversary Staff Alumni Party was attended by over 60 current and former staff. Professor Tommy KOH, Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and founding Executive Director of ASEF, was the Alumni-of-Honour at the event. In his speech, Professor KOH highlighted the continuing importance of the work that ASEF alumni and staff had carried out: “ASEF plays a unique role in engaging civil society. Over the years, we have fostered networks, partnerships and connections. Many of what my colleagues and I have started have endured and thrived”. During the event, two members of ASEF’s staff were honoured for their 20 years of service to the organisation.

Mr Vetrivelu SINNATHAMY (left) and Mr Bassi MOHAMED BORHAN (centre) were honoured for their 20 years of service to ASEF.

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE (left), ASEF’s Executive Director, and Professor Tommy KOH (right), Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, performing the cake-cutting ceremony. Professor KOH was the Alumni-of-Honour.
ASEF 20th Anniversary Activities

Upcoming Initiatives

ASEF Day

ASEF Day will be inaugurated in 2018 to commemorate the founding of ASEF on 15 February 1997 in Singapore. This day, marked in every calendar year of ASEF’s activities thereafter, will be celebrated with stakeholders, partners and supporters. The inaugural ASEF Day will also be the first activity of the new ASEF Outreach Programme in 2018.

ASEF Diversity Creates Award

ASEF’s past achievements over the past 2 decades would not have been possible without the efforts of individuals and institutions towards fulfilling ASEF’s mission and promoting ASEF’s core values. To recognise these outstanding contributions, the “ASEF Diversity Creates Award 1997–2017” was established in 2017.

The Nomination Call for the “ASEF Diversity Creates Award 1997–2017” will be launched on the inaugural ASEF Day on ASEF’s online-communication platforms. A total of 4 Awards will be given, with 2 recipients each from Asia and Europe. The Awardees will be decided by a selection panel and the Award Ceremony will take place at the 38th ASEF Board of Governors’ Meeting (ASEFBoG38) in June 2018.
Publications

CULTURE

Creative Responses to Sustainability – Indonesia Guide
June 2017

The Indonesia Guide is the 3rd in a series after Korea and Singapore Guides that explores the intersection of arts and environmental sustainability. It features a directory of the top 25 pioneering arts organisations in Indonesia contributing to social and environmental change through artistic practices.

https://bit.ly/2HPiQPD

Mobility Funding Guides for International Cultural Exchange in China, Japan and Korea
October 2017

The Mobility Funding Guides for International Cultural Exchange, focusing on 51 countries of Asia and Europe, provide a comprehensive list of resources on cultural mobility in both regions. In 2017, the Guides for China, Japan and Korea have been updated with new content. The Guides have been recognised by UNESCO as an important information tool for artists in its recent report, “Re-shaping Cultural Policies: Advancing creativity for development – 2005 Convention Global Report” (December 2017).


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

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Implementation Guide for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*September 2017*

The “Implementation Guide for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” aims to provide guidance to policymakers from developing countries on adapting their national planning and implementation strategies to the SDGs, and on creating an institutional structure suitable for financing and attaining the SDGs in any given thematic area. The publication introduces a step-by-step process that countries may follow to mainstream SDGs into their national policy and institutional structures.

https://bit.ly/2F5Gk6i

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies: “Risk Communication & Leadership During Health Emergencies”

*December 2017*

This report contains the outcome of the High-level Meeting held from 14–15 June 2017 in Seoul, Korea. The Meeting was designed to tackle “political interface”, where emergency risk communication theory collides with the realities of government. It intended to strengthen policymakers’ capacity to support risk communications in times of health emergencies, by recognising the complexity and role of emergency risk communication in a context of crisis management beyond the health sector. This publication contains the keynote speech, panel discussions and conclusions, including the set of recommendations adopted by the Meeting.


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, public health and economy. Visitors have access to information on participation as well as latest ASEF publications, news articles, and links to partner organisations. In 2017, the website received 287,812 visitors.

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

**ASEF CULTURE360**
ASEF’s web portal provides an information hub for arts and culture communities in Asia and Europe. Over the past decade, the portal has enabled easy access to relevant and reliable information for individual artists, arts organisations and policymakers across the ASEM region. It remains the only portal offering such a service in the ASEM context, and has been recognised as a good model of information exchange between 2 regions by UNESCO and the European Union. In 2017, the website was relaunched on a new platform featuring the latest technologies in terms of mobile browsing, user-centered design and a state-of-the-art search engine.

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

**ASEMUS**
Hosted on ASEF culture360, the website of the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) promotes information exchange between museum professionals in Asia and Europe. In 2017, the website received 74,000 visitors.

[www.asemus.museum](http://www.asemus.museum)

**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 plays a key role in elevating ASEM’s profile in the public eye.

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

**ASEF eNEWSLETTER**
The ASEF eNewsletter is an information source for the foundation’s latest and upcoming projects and activities. Published monthly, the eNewsletter currently reaches over 23,500 subscribers in Asia and Europe.

**ASEF CULTURE360 NEWSLETTER**
ASEF culture360 disseminates a monthly newsletter featuring news, events, and opportunities in the field of arts and culture from Asia and Europe. In 2017, the newsletter reached over 11,700 subscribers every month.

**ASEMUS NEWSLETTER**
The Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) publishes a quarterly newsletter, which features news, events and opportunities across its cross-cultural network of museums in the ASEM region. In 2017, the newsletter reached 2,100 subscribers.

**ASEM INFOBOARD NEWSLETTER**
The ASEM InfoBoard Newsletter updates recipients every month on upcoming ASEM meetings and activities. The newsletter reaches out to over 1,000 subscribers and stakeholders monthly.
Voices

“ASEF’s contribution to cultural development and cultural exchange via its Mobility First! travel grant is very precious for artists and cultural practitioners of today. ASEF’s high-level of professionalism is also worth acknowledging.”
Anna TITOVETS, Co-Founder/Programme Director, Plums Fest, Russian Federation
November 2017

“Cultural mobility is increasingly high on the ASEM and ASEF agenda (and all the more with the Mobility First! fund). Working with ASEF colleagues on cultural mobility related projects (e.g. the mobility funding guides) always implies a sense of trust, mutual enrichment and warm professionalism.”
Marie LE SOURD, Secretary General, On the Move, Belgium
August 2017

“The ASEF Mobility First! Grant was a boon for Experimenta 2017 as it facilitated the participation of acclaimed Filipino film artists and curators to travel to India to share their work. It was a rare and special opportunity for Experimenta audiences to interact with them in person, and an honour and privilege for us to host these wonderful artists in Bangalore.”
Shai HEREDIA, Festival Director, Experimenta, India
December 2017

“This kind of conference provides a platform for that type of exchange of ideas across societies and across different types of education structures, which is going to be key to the professionals to learn what they can do, to think about what they can do about how to update their education systems.”
Dr Janil PUTHUCHEARY, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Singapore
October 2017
Voices

“The organisation of the 8th Model ASEM was impeccable, from the arrival at the airport to the very end of our experience. It was challenging at times to be surrounded by so many people with so many different points of view but at the same time it made me realise how important it is to understand and accept our differences in order to get along with other people.”

Emily Angela Tiainen LOSNO, 8th Model ASEM Participant from Sweden

November 2017

“The ENVforum is making a tireless effort in promoting sustainable development in ASEM countries. By involving different stakeholders in its activities, ENVforum is a well-presented example of how multistakeholder partnerships can drive changes.”

NGUYEN Thu Trang, Project Manager, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Hanoi, Viet Nam office

September 2017

“The theme of the Annual Informal ASEM Seminar on “Human Rights and Children” is absolutely timely and relevant in the broader context of the peace of our world today.”

Mikiko OTANI, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

November 2017
Social Media

FACEBOOK
ASEF Facebook

29,373 followers

Culture360
31,200 followers

ASEFEdu
22,925 followers

www.facebook.com/AsiaEuropeFoundation

TWITTER
ASEF Twitter

3,071 followers

Culture360
10,600 followers

ASEFEdu
550 followers

www.twitter.com/aseforg

LINKEDIN
ASEF LinkedIn

5,017 followers

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

YOUTUBE
ASEF YouTube

689 subscribers

18 new videos

www.youtube.com/user/asiaeuropefoundation
Contributions Received from ASEM Partners

Receipts have been converted to Singapore Dollars (SGD) at transaction date rates. * Unaudited figures as at 30 April 2018

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Operating Fund SGD</th>
<th>Project Fund (incl Trust Funds) SGD</th>
<th>Reserve Fund SGD</th>
<th>Total Contributions Year 1997 - 2017 SGD</th>
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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 are utilised for the funding of projects. In the case of trust funds, contributions are ear-marked 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 2017, namely China, France, Germany, and Singapore. ASEF would like to further acknowledge Singapore’s contribution for the use of the premises (including some aspects of maintenance of building) located at 31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595, since 2003.
2017 Expenditure Summary
(as at 30 April 2018)

- General and Administrative Expenses: 3%
- Corporate Communications: 2%
- Property Maintenance: 2%
- Management Support Costs: 24%
- Project Costs: 69%

ASEF’s annual audit has not been completed at the time of printing. The financial figures reported on pages 68 to 69 are unaudited figures. ASEF’s audited financial statements are available separately at a later date.
Partners

- Africalia (Belgium)
- Agenda 21 for Culture (Spain)
- Andrea Von Braun Stiftung (Germany)
- Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops (Cambodia)
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)
- Arteria Art Foundation (Poland)
- Arterial Network (Côte d’Ivoire)
- Arts Council of Greece (Greece)
- ArtsEquator (Singapore)
- ASEAN University Network (AUN)
- ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub)
- ASEM LifeLong Learning Hub (ASEM LLL Hub)
- ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (Korea)
- ASEM Young Leaders Network (Singapore)
- Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
- Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)
- Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)
- Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) (Japan)
- Asian Film Archive (Singapore)
- Bausch Stiftung (Germany)
- Bertelsmann Stiftung (Germany)
- BOZAR (Belgium)
- British Council (Belgium)
- Bruegel (Belgium)
- Buffer Fringe (Cyprus)
- CBM International & International Disability Alliance
- Centre d’Études Prospectives et d’Information International (CEPIII) (France)
- Coopération Education Culture (CEC) (Belgium)
- Creative Mobilities Forum (France)
- Culture et Développement (France)
- Danish Institute for Human Right (Denmark)
- Danish School of Education, Aarhus University (Denmark)
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- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) (Switzerland)
- Ecologic Institute (Germany)
- Embassy of France (Indonesia)
- ENCATC – European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres (Belgium)
- Erasmus Student Network (ESN)
- EU Development Days (European Union)
- European Centre for Development Policy Management (Netherlands)
- European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)
- European Students’ Union (ESU)
- European Union (EU)
- European University Association (EUA)
- Experimenta – International Festival of Moving Image Art (India)
- Far East Film Festival (FEFF) (Italy)
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) (Switzerland)
- Five Flavours Asian Film Festival (Poland)
- General Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health (GDPM-MoH) (Viet Nam)
- Global Changemakers (Switzerland)
• Goethe Institut (Belgium)  
• Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) (Germany)  
• Home for Cooperation (Cyprus)  
• International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA)  
• Indonesian Visual Arts Archive (IVAA) (Indonesia)  
• Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) (Germany)  
• Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan)  
• Interarts (Spain)  
• Intercultural Theatre Institute (Singapore)  
• International Disability Alliance  
• International Music Council (France)  
• Kinabalu Film Association Sabah (Malaysia)  
• Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) (Korea)  
• Korea University (Korea)  
• Korea Youth Work Agency (KYWA) (Korea)  
• Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival (Malaysia)  
• Luang Prabang Film Festival (Lao PDR)  
• Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (France)  
• Ministry of Education (Myanmar)  
• Ministry of Education and Culture (Finland)  
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bulgaria)  
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Denmark)  
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Indonesia)  
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Thailand)  
• Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Bulgaria)  
• Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Korea)  
• Model United Nations EPFL (Switzerland)  
• National Association of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines (NAUCP)  
• National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), University of Canterbury (New Zealand)  
• National Museum (India)  
• National Museum Institute (India)  
• National University of Laos (NUOL) (Lao PDR)  
• On the Move – European Network for Mobility (Belgium)  
• Open Network for Performing Arts Management (ON-PAM) (Japan)  
• Peking University (China)  
• Plums Fest – Audiovisual Experiments Festival (Russian Federation)  
• Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) (Sweden)  
• Shrishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology (India)  
• Singapore Management University (SMU) (Singapore)  
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• Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA)
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The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

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