The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) brings Asians and Europeans together to create stronger bonds and ultimately contribute towards peace, prosperity and the common development of both continents.

The cover of the ASEF Annual Report 2018 highlights ASEF’s focus on developing networks that help strengthen Asia-Europe relations. The illustration represents a network made up of multiple connections, symbolising the strong bonds that ASEF has created through the years.
ASEF promotes cultural cooperation based on fair exchange and reciprocity. It provides access to information through digital platforms. It supports face-to-face encounters and opportunities for mutual learning among artists and cultural professionals through travel grants, capacity building workshops and peer-to-peer conversations. It also facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue between civil society and government agencies responsible for culture, via the ASEM Process and at UNESCO.

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 ASEM Education Process and ASEM Leaders’ Meetings.

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.

Through its media projects, ASEF creates unique networking platforms for an exchange of views and ideas as well as cooperation among mass media representatives of Asia and Europe. The media projects address themes aligned with the agenda of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) which examine current issues relevant to Asia-Europe relations, challenges faced by the media industry, as well as the professional development of media personnel.

Together with its partners of the Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF), ASEF addresses current economic issues and long-term trends impacting Asian and European societies in line with ASEM’s political and economic agenda concerning the international financial and economic situation across ASEM constituencies.

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 as well as the needs of stakeholders at international, regional, and national levels, ASEF’s activities in this field focus on contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ASEF Public Health Network (ASEFPHN) is part of the ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza. The initiative was officially launched in 2009 with financial support of the Government of Japan. The ASEFPHN has been promoting bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases, including pandemic influenza.
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 organisation’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 four 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 2019)**

| ASEAN Secretariat | Dr A.K.P MOCHTAN  
| Dr HOANG Anh Tuan (until May 2018) |
| Australia | Ms Kate DUFF |
| Austria | Ms Gabriele MEONTSCHÜRTZ |
| Bangladesh | Ms Nahida RAHMAN Shumona  
| Mr Chiranjib SARKER (until Nov 2018) |
| Belgium | Ambassador Andy DETAILLE |
| Brunei Darussalam | Mr Pengiran Indera Jaya bin Pengiran SHAMSU  
| Mr Adnan JAAFAR (until Oct 2018) |
| Bulgaria | Dr Ludmila DIMITROVA |
| Cambodia | Mr CHEUY Vichet |
| China | Ambassador ZHANG Xiaokang |
| Croatia | Ambassador Dražen MARGETA |
| Cyprus | High Commissioner Agis LOIZOU  
| HC Demetrios THEOPHYLACTOU (until Nov 2018) |
| Czech Republic | Ambassador Milan HUPCEJ  
| Amb Rudolf HYKL (until Apr 2019) |
| Denmark | Ambassador Prof Jørgen Ørstrøm MØLLER |
| Estonia | Ms Tea VARRAK  
<p>| Professor Rein RAUD (until Sep 2018) |
| European Union | Dr Steven EVERTS |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name and Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Ms Eva BIAUDET</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Ambassador Hervé LADSOUS</td>
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<td>Ambassador Claude BLANCHEMAISON (until Mar 2018)</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Prof Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
<td>Ambassador Dr Sotirios MOUSOURIS</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Ambassador Dr István SZERDAHELYI</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>High Commissioner Jawed ASHRAF</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Ambassador Soemadi BROTDININGRAT</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Ms Maeve GALLAGHER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Conor O’CLERY (until Oct 2018)</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>Ambassador Raffaele LANGELLA</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Ambassador Kojiro SHIOJIRI</td>
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<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Ambassador Dr Usen SULEIMEN</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
<td>Ambassador CHOI Sung-joo</td>
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<td>Amb Wooseong CHONG (until Dec 2018)</td>
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<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Mr Songkane LUANGMUNINTHONE</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Ms Inna ŠTEINBUKA</td>
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<td>Ms Daiga UPENIECE (until Sep 2018)</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Ambassador Gediminas VARVUOLIS</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Mr Robert GOEBBELS</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Ambassador Norman MUHAMAD</td>
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<td>Amb Dato’ Kennedy JAWAN (until Mar 2019)</td>
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<td>Malta</td>
<td>High Commissioner Clifford BORG-MARKS</td>
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<td>Dr Carmen SAMMUT (until Nov 2018)</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>Mr Ernesto H BRAAM</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>High Commissioner Jo TYNDALL</td>
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<td>High Commissioner Dr Jonathan AUSTIN (until Feb 2019)</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Ambassador Anita NERGAARD</td>
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<td>Amb Antonio A MORALES (until Dec 2018)</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Ambassador Magdalena BOGDZIEWICZ</td>
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<td>Amb Zenon KOSINIAK-KAMYSZ (until Sep 2018)</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Ambassador Luís João DE SOUSA LORVÃO</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>Mr Gheorghe MAGHERU</td>
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<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Ambassador Andrey TATARINOV</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Prof Leo TAN Wee Hin</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Ambassador Nataša PRAH</td>
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<td>Ms Janja KLASINC (until Oct 2018)</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Ambassador Santiago MIRALLES</td>
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<td>Mr David NAVARRO (until Feb 2019)</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Ms Kamilla LINDSTRÖM</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Ambassador Fabrice FILLIEZ</td>
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<td>Ambassador Thomas KUPFER (until Aug 2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Dr Darmp SUKONTASAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>High Commissioner Scott WIGHTMAN</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>Ambassador NGUYEN Nguyet Nga (until May 2018)</td>
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Chair’s Message

The year 2018 was another fruitful one for the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). 53 leaders from Asia and Europe gathered on 18-19 October in Brussels, Belgium, for the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12). Chaired by the European Union, leaders discussed how to strengthen cooperation under the overall theme of “Europe & Asia: Global Partners for Global Challenges”. The ASEM12 Summit also saw the launch of the ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal. This portal, developed by the European Union’s Joint Research Centre, enables its users to explore the many ways in which ASEM partners are linked through a wealth of connectivity- and sustainability-related data.

The Summit is the most significant part of the ASEM Process which in 2018 was supplemented by 2 other ministerial meetings namely the 8th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMCMM8) on 1-2 March and the 13th ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMFinMM13) on 26 April, both held in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Being the only established institution of ASEM, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) continues to contribute to the ASEM Process through its unique role in connecting the civil societies and people of Asia and Europe. Most noteworthy of such contributions in 2018 were the 4 official side-events which it organised alongside the ASEM12 Summit, the 3rd ASEF Young Leaders’ Summit (ASEFYLS3), the 9th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ASEFERT9), the 15th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF15), and ASEF’s support to the ASEM Cultural Festival.

In 2019, the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMFMM14) will be held on 16-17 December in Madrid, Spain. I am happy that ASEF will again organise 3 events on the sides of ASEMFM14.

These are the 9th Model ASEM, the 12th ASEF Journalists’ Seminar (ASEFJS12), and ASEF’s support to another ASEM Cultural Festival. Apart from ASEMFM14, ASEF will also organise the 7th ASEF Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum (ARCT7) at the 7th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME7) to be held on 15-16 May in Bucharest, Romania.

Certainly, ASEF’s contributions to the ASEM Process go beyond the side-events at high-level ASEM meetings. The Annual Report 2018 is testimony to the breadth and depth of the projects undertaken by ASEF in the seven thematic areas of culture, education, governance, economy, sustainable development, public health, and media, complementing the ASEM Process. Significantly too, ASEF manages the ASEM Infoboard website (AIB) on behalf of ASEM. This is a one-stop online information hub on all past, present and upcoming ASEM events and related activities.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I want to express our appreciation for the work of ASEF and its contribution to the ASEM Process. I want to thank the dedicated and hardworking ASEF team led by Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF’s Executive Director. I am confident that this team will continue to make both ASEM and ASEF proud in the 22nd year of ASEF’s establishment.

Dr Steven EVERTS
ASEF Governor from the European Union
Chair, ASEF Board of Governors (2019)
Executive Director’s Message

2018 was another special year for ASEF as it held its 1st commemorative ASEF Day reception in February. Ambassador TUMUR Lkhagvadorj, Chair of ASEF’s Board of Governors, underlined that “ASEF’s bridging and multiplier roles are what makes ASEF especially valuable to the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and ASEF must continue to synergise with the ASEM Process.”

Honouring individuals and institutions with an outstanding contribution to ASEF’s mission during the past 20 years, ASEF presented the ASEF Diversity Creates Award 1997-2017 to Dr YEO Lay Hwee (Singapore), Mr Rolf RING (Sweden), Hanns Seidel Foundation (Germany) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN).

As the only permanently established institution under the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process, we continued to serve in strengthening the human connectivity between civil societies of Asia and Europe as well as governments and businesses through our projects in the areas of culture, education, governance, economy, sustainable development, public health and media.

Successful ASEF projects effectively enhance the visibility of both ASEF and ASEM. Therefore, ASEF’s projects are the core and top priority of ASEF’s work. In 2018, ASEF conducted 26 projects consisting of about 94 activities within the ASEM countries, engaging over 145 partner organisations.

Aside from running our web portal, culture360.asesen.org, 3 rounds of our travel grants for artists and cultural professionals, Mobility First!, as well as 4 editions of our continuous informal discussions on culture and cooperation, ASEF Unplugged, ASEF organised a panel discussion and presented ASEF’s work at the 8th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMCMM8) in March in Sofia, Bulgaria.

In addition, we supported the ASEM Cultural Festival “Europe Meets Asia, Asia Meets Europe” which took place alongside the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) in October in Brussels.

We successfully conducted the 3rd edition of the ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3) for our biennial arena for debate and action for students and young professionals as an official side-event of ASEM12 on “Ethical Leadership” with several spin-off activities.

The year began with an experiential and interdisciplinary learning opportunity for students and young professionals, the 21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU21) on “Youth with Disabilities: Shaping Inclusive ASEF Societies” from 27 January to 10 February in Melbourne, Australia, and Christchurch, New Zealand. The 22nd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU22) on “Sustainable Tourism: Youth Driving Green Growth”, followed in September in Zagreb and Poreč, Croatia, and in Ljubljana and Portoroz, Slovenia.

Our online school network for secondary, high, and vocational schools held the 14th ASEF Classroom Network Conference (ASEFClassNet14) on “Gender Equality: Reprogramming STEM Education” in November in Helsinki and Espoo, Finland.

We organised our annual human rights dialogue forum for civil society and public sector representatives, the 18th Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS18) on “Human Rights & Preventing Violent Extremism”, in November in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The 6th Face-to-face Training of our annual Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative for young ASEF diplomats was conducted in December in Vienna, Austria. In addition, we supported the 15th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF15), an annual seminar for economic think tanks and academics, in October in Brussels, Belgium.

We held the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) Annual Conference on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for experts and professionals on “Asia-Europe Pathways Towards Responsible Consumption & Production: From Linear to Circular Economy” in October in Warsaw, Poland.

In May, we organised a special 10th Anniversary Event of the ASEF Public Health Network for experts and professionals in Tokyo, Japan: High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) on “UHC as a Tool to Combat Infectious Diseases”.

Also, on the side lines of ASEM12, we organised the 9th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ASEFERT9) on “Exploring the Battlefronts of Fake News: A Tripartite Approach to the Fight Against Misinformation”, bringing journalists to this key ASEM Meeting.

Looking ahead, we will continue to contribute to a world in which Asians and Europeans shape the future together – respectfully, fairly, and sustainably. Towards this aim, we will continue to provide opportunities to connect people of Asia and Europe for an exchange of ideas, encourage collaboration towards innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges, by engaging civil society and complementing the political ASEM dialogue forum.

I wish to thank our ASEF Governors for their invaluable guidance, the ASEM Senior Officials and Contact Points for their continued support, our partner organisations for their constructive collaborations, our participants for their active engagement, and the ASEF Team for their strong dedication and hard work.

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE
ASEF Executive Director
ASEF Team
as at 31 May 2019

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE
Germany
Executive Director

SUN Xiangyang
China
Deputy Executive Director

Anupama SEKHAR
India
Director Culture

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Italy
Senior Project Manager Culture

Preeti GAONKAR
India
Project Manager Culture

Fatima AVILA
Philippines
Project Manager Culture

Andrea ABELLON
Singapore
Project Executive Culture

Agnes DELMAS
France
Admin/Project Executive Culture

Kerrine GOH
Singapore
Project Officer Culture

Leonie NAGARAJAN
Germany
Director Education

Angie TOH
Singapore
Senior Admin/Project Manager Education
Oscar BOIJE
Finland
Project Manager
Education

Reka TOZSA
Hungary
Project Manager
Education

Ross CHEUNG
China
Project Executive
Education

Martin VIDANES
Philippines
Project Executive
Education

Jyoti RAHAMAN
Bangladesh
Project Officer
Education

André CHAN
Singapore
Project Officer
Education

Hege KALBEBKEN
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Project Officer
Education

Armi Hannele AARNI
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Project Manager
Governance &
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Trishia OCTAVIANO
Philippines
Project Executive
Governance &
Economy

Elizabeth DY
Philippines
Admin Executive
Governance &
Economy

Iulia LUMINA
Romania
Project Officer
Governance &
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Simon PIOLDI
Germany
Project Officer
Governance &
Economy
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as at 31 May 2019

Grażyna PULAWSKA
Poland
Senior Project Manager
Sustainable Development & Public Health

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Japan
Project Manager Sustainable Development & Public Health

Kareena SAMTANI
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Nur A’in A. RAZAK
Singapore
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TEE Bee Lock
Singapore
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Gemma LUENGO
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Angelina CHEW
Singapore
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Gaffar ABDUL
Singapore
Communications Officer Communications

JIANG Linnan
China
Communications Officer Communications

Pascal KUTA
Poland
Communications Officer Communications

Meera BAL
Singapore
Manager Executive Office

Sanja DUNDOVIČ
Slovenia
Executive Assistant Executive Office
ASEF promotes cultural cooperation based on fair exchange and reciprocity. It provides access to information through the digital platforms. It supports face-to-face encounters and opportunities for mutual learning among artists and cultural professionals through travel grants, capacity building workshops and peer-to-peer conversations. It also facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue between civil society and government agencies responsible for culture, via the ASEM Process and at UNESCO. ASEF’s work in culture contributes to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDGs 4.4 (skills for employment), 5.5 (women’s leadership), 10.7 (mobility of people), 11.4 (safeguarding heritage) and 16.10 (information access).
ASEF culture360

ASEF’s arts website culture360. ASEF.org is the only online platform focusing on news and analysis on the arts sector in all ASEM countries. This digital information architecture system provides relevant, updated and publicly accessible information through weekly updates on events and funding opportunities aggregated from across the worldwide web. It also features a magazine with special articles on topics of common interest for Asia and Europe. Resource guides of direct use to artists and arts practitioners are regularly commissioned and available for free download.

In 2018, the portal marked its 10th year with a new open call for Media Partnerships, in order to give visibility to innovative arts events from under-represented countries, regions and artistic disciplines, including the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival (Cyprus), the International Forum on Cultural Policy (Kazakhstan) and the International Archaeology Day (Pakistan).

The 4th Guide on Australia was published as part of “Creative Responses to Sustainability” series, with a focus on the most pioneering arts organisations in the country responding to issues of climate change. Since 2012, culture360.ASEF.org has also been jointly presenting, with On the Move (OTM), the “Mobility Funding Guides” in 51 ASEM Partners. In 2018, updated guides for Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Greece and Portugal have been published. Additionally, the online directories of arts organisations for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Pakistan were also updated. culture360.ASEF.org also hosts the website of the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) which promotes information exchange among museum professionals in the ASEM region. culture360. ASEF.org contributes to the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 16.10 (information access) and SDG 11.4 (safeguarding heritage).

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
ASEF supported research into cultural policy issues and trends through the WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies from 2011–2017, in partnership with the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA). During this time, country reports on arts and cultural policy issues and trends were commissioned from India, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Singapore, the Philippines and Viet Nam for WorldCP-Asia, a central component of the international WorldCP project. In 2018, the cultural policy profile of the Philippines was completed, and the launch is expected in 2019.

Following the closing of the project by IFACCA in 2017, ASEF has been undertaking consultations and needs assessments with civil society and government stakeholders to decide the future strategy for this project.

As part of this new direction, ASEF joined the new Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends (www.culturalpolicies.net) in Europe as a stakeholder member in 2018, alongside 7 ASEM European Ministries of Culture. As a stakeholder member, ASEF will directly contribute to the development of cultural policy profiles of the 30 European partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and support a community of practice of over 100 cultural policy experts and researchers.

To stay creative, artists and cultural professionals need to immerse themselves in exchange and dialogue with their counterparts from different backgrounds, geographies and contexts. In order to achieve such knowledge sharing, cultural mobility (or the temporary movement of artists/cultural professionals across international borders) is an integral part of general artistic practice today.

In its 2nd year, Mobility First! enabled the participation of 102 artists and cultural professionals from 36 ASEM countries, who travelled to 27 countries in Asia and Europe. The supported practitioners attended a wide range of cultural activities in the two regions such as conferences, workshops, residencies, festivals and practice-led research trips, that enabled their professional development and positively impacted their communities.

A special joint open call by ASEF and the Adelaide Festival Centre (Australia) was also launched in 2018, marking the first co-funding partnership for the project. 18 Southeast Asian cultural professionals were selected to attend the Borak Arts Series in Adelaide, Australia from 1-3 November 2018, to strengthen regional connections in Asia-Pacific.

Mobility First! contributes to the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 4.10 (skills for employment), SDG 5.5 (women’s leadership), SDG 10.7 (mobility of people), SDG 10.a (preferential treatment) and 11.a (links between urban and periphery).
In 2018, ASEF launched a new event series on arts, culture and heritage, inspired by the tradition of ‘unplugged’ music concerts (which are performed with acoustic rather than electrically amplified instruments). Similarly, ASEF Unplugged conversations create an informal atmosphere that allow for an open exchange of ideas among cultural professionals from Asia and Europe.

4 such events were organised between May and November 2018 in Adelaide, Australia; Almaty, Kazakhstan; Mumbai, India; and Prague, the Czech Republic. They addressed a wide variety of topics including international cultural co-operation (between the Czech Republic and Asia), regional connections (Australia-ASEAN cultural relations and Kazakhstan-Asia cultural relations) and local needs (arts eco-systems across Asia).

This project also promotes discussions on the role of culture in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The events were organised in partnership with UNESCO, European institutes of culture and local arts non-profit organisations.

The ASEF Unplugged series marks a departure of the Culture Department from large format public forums towards more smaller format conversations in location across Asia and Europe.

ASEF Unplugged is launched in Prague, Czech Republic (May 2018).

ASEF Unplugged goes to Borak Arts Series and OzAsia Festival in Adelaide, Australia (November 2018).

**ASEF Unplugged: Conversations on the Arts in Asia & Europe**

Australia, Czech Republic, India, Kazakhstan

**Partners**

- EARS
- Goethe Institute
- Borak Arts Series
- Cultural Dialogue
- Almaty Office
- THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY
Regionally Speaking Cultural Network

In 2018, ASEF continued its support to Regionally Speaking, a peer network of mid-career cultural professionals from Southeast Asia. The network made broader connections with South Asia, Asia-Pacific and Europe through participation in major arts conferences in these regions. Regionally Speaking was incubated by ASEF from 2016-2018 and will evolve into a self-sustaining cultural network from 2019 onwards.

Panel at 8th ASEMUS General Conference: “The Engaged Museum – Curating with the Community”
14-17 November 2018, Kuching, Malaysia

ASEF is one of the co-founders of ASEMUS, which currently brings together 181 museum members from 41 ASEM countries. ASEF sits on the Executive Committee of the network, serves as its secretariat and manages the network’s website (ASEMUS.culture360.ASEF.org). In addition, in 2018, ASEF supported the 8th ASEMUS General Conference hosted by the Sarawak Museum Department in Kuching, Malaysia. The General Conference brought together over 250 museum professionals from Asia and Europe for three days of training, panel discussions and cultural visits.
To channel civil society voices to policy makers, ASEF organised a discussion with cultural professionals at the ASEMCM8. Panelists strongly advocated for closer public-private partnerships in culture. This panel was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Bulgaria and the Ministry of Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union.

In the ASEMCM8 Chair’s Statement, Culture Ministers acknowledged ASEF’s significant efforts in facilitating multilateral cultural co-operation among artists, arts organisations and museums from the 53 ASEM Partners through the ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series, culture360.ASEF.org, Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) and Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative.

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF Executive Director, presented a report on ASEF’s work in culture (2016-2018) at the plenary session of the Ministerial Meeting.

Since 2017, ASEF has also been channelling civil society voices to policy makers at UNESCO, through biennial civil society reports on the arts. ASEF’s support to contemporary creativity in Asia and Europe – particularly in the area of cultural mobility – has been also recognised by UNESCO as a good practice. Two projects were acknowledged: Mobility First!, ASEF’s travel grant for artists and the 53 “Mobility Funding Guides” published on culture360.ASEF.org. UNESCO’s recognition comes in “Re-shaping Cultural Policies” (2018), its biennial global report on advancing creativity in development.
THINGS YOU SHOULD SUSTAIN CONVERSATION QUALITY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
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 ASEM Education Process and ASEM Leaders’ Meetings.
Education

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. Lifelong Learning, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as key priorities of the ASEM Education Process.

Flexible Learning Pathways – Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development

13-14 December 2018
Hanoi, Viet Nam

Acknowledging the importance of exchanging practices at an Asia-Europe level, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Ministry of Education of Viet Nam (MoET) and Hanoi Open University (HOU) organised this conference to contribute to the Incheon Declaration on “Education 2030: Towards Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education & Lifelong Learning for All”, and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Education Process. This conference gathered 60 people from Asia and Europe to promote exchange of information, practices, institutional policies, relevant research at a national, regional and international level. The topic “Flexible Learning Pathways” explored how traditional education systems adapt to the needs of economy from 3 angles:

1. flexibilisation of degrees;
2. flexibilisation of curriculum and of learning content; &
3. flexibilisation of methodology and learning design.

Partners

CLICK HERE to read more

Participates of the Flexible Learning Pathways Conference during a session

Group photo of participants at the Flexible Learning Pathways Conference
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.

3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3): “Ethical Leadership”
15-19 October 2018
Brussels, Belgium

The ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS) is a platform for Asian and European young professionals and students to meet political leaders, top-tier business representatives, prominent thinkers and doers.

ASEFYLS3, which was held in conjunction with the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12), gathered 120 participants who, through a series of discussions, workshops and planning sessions, collectively investigated three critical levels of leadership, namely: self-leadership (you), team leadership (we), and societal leadership (all), and the role of ethics in these leadership levels.

The programme included a dinner hosted by Their Majesties the King and the Queen of Belgium as well as 15 direct interactions between ASEM Leaders and ASEM youth. Additionally, two participants ASEFYLS3 presented also a collective Youth Intervention at the Opening Ceremony of ASEM12, in the presence of leaders from 51 Asian and European countries, the EU and the ASEAN Secretariat, further echoing ASEFEdu’s work in bringing the youth voice into the ASEM Process.

Click here to read more

Partners

Supporters
Prior to the 3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3), two ASEFYLS Navigators Trainings were organised for 20 youth leaders to gain in-depth practical and theoretical training on ethics and leadership, and prepared them to undertake a facilitator and resource person role on-site at the ASEFYLS3 conference. The participants underwent a rigorous preparation phase that focused on self-reflection, team work challenges and in-depth thematic discussions as well as action-focused facilitation and project management workshops.

Partners

ASEFYLS Navigators with Faculty of Symbiosis International (Deemed) University and ASEFEdu Staff

ASEFYLS Navigators with Faculty of College of Europe Natolin and ASEFEdu Staff

ASEFYLS Navigators intently listening during a panel on "Ethics in Transforming Societies"
21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU21): “Youth with Disabilities: Shaping Inclusive ASEM Societies”

27 January – 10 February 2018
Melbourne, Australia & Christchurch, New Zealand

ASEF Summer University is a 2-week experiential learning journey and interdisciplinary ‘innovathon’ that allows students and young professionals to engage with local communities, governments and businesses to develop creative solutions for societal challenges.

The 21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU21) invited a group of 48 young professionals and students, out of which about 20 live with different types of disabilities, between the ages of 18-30 from 48 ASEM Partner countries to reflect on the theme “Youth with Disabilities: Shaping Inclusive ASEM Societies”. Over a period of two weeks the ASEFSU21 covered eight Focus Areas: Mobility; Rights Protection & Legislation; Economic Security & Employment; Inclusive Education; Health & Well-Being; Participation in Society; Access to Information; and Attitudes & Perceptions.

ASEFSU21 was ASEFEdu’s 1st youth project with a mixed-ability participant audience. It was also ASEFEdu’s 1st big-scale project in Australia and in New Zealand.

CLICK HERE to read more
The 22nd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU22) gathered 47 participants from 46 Asian and European countries to voyage across four cities in Croatia and Slovenia through a 2-week experiential learning journey focused on the three dimensions of sustainable development: Economic, Social and Environmental. The programme included practical trainings, stimulating lectures and alternative tourism exercises on the multiple aspects of sustainability.

ASEFSU22 was the ASEF Education Department’s first large-scale project in both Croatia and Slovenia, and it was also the first time an ASEFEdu project assessed its impact on the planet and tried to actively minimise it through various sustainable project management approaches. As part of the programme, the ASEFSU22 participants were divided into eight Challenge Teams who were then tasked to identify and present solutions to the use of disposable plastic at Hostelling International hostels.

CLICK HERE to read more
MODEL ASEM SPIN-OFF 2018 EDITIONS

Being spin-offs of the main Model ASEM conferences organised by ASEF, the locally organised Model ASEM Spin-off conferences and political simulations of ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meetings (ASEM FMMs) create awareness of the ASEM Process among local youth. The Model ASEM Spin-off editions focus on enhancing diplomacy, negotiation, and public-speaking skills among ASEM students.

Model ASEM Spin-off Chengdu 2018: “The Belt & Road Initiative and Connectivity between Asia & Europe”
11-14 July 2018
Chengdu, China

The Model ASEM Spin-off in Chengdu gathered 85 students at Sichuan University to discuss “The Belt & Road Initiative and Connectivity between Asia & Europe”. In addition to role play activities that enhance the public speaking and negotiation skills of students, the programme also included visits to nine ASEM Diplomatic Missions in Chengdu.

Model ASEM Spin-off Bratislava 2018: “Asia & Europe: Global Partners for Global Challenges”
26-28 October 2018
Bratislava, Slovakia

The Model ASEM Spin-off conference in Bratislava gathered 56 student participants to discuss the theme “Asia and Europe: Global Partners for Global Challenges”. The conference was organised by ASEF Alumni in Slovakia, in partnership with Comenius University in Bratislava. The Model ASEM Spin-off in Bratislava was preceded by the first EURASI Forum 2018.

CLICK HERE to read more
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 countries.

**14th ASEF Classroom Network Conference (#ASEFClassNet14): “Gender Equality – Reprogramming STEM Education”**

27-30 November 2018
Helsinki & Espoo, Finland

The 14th ASEF Classroom Network Conference (#ASEFClassNet14) themed “Gender Equality: Reprogramming STEM Education” brought together over 100 participants including policy-makers, scholars, pedagogical experts, education leaders and innovative secondary, high and vocational school teachers from 45 ASEM countries.

Ms Eva BIAUDET (1st row, 3rd from left), ASEF Governor from Finland, with the ASEF ClassNet14 speakers, participants and organisers

Participants engaging in an icebreaking activity
Through panel discussions and lectures from experts on the topic, the teacher participants enriched their understanding of gender and participated in debates and discussions to highlight why gender equality in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) is crucial today. Most importantly, it encouraged participants to debate how school leaders and governments can introduce initiatives to encourage more girls to study STEM in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

6 ASEF ClassNet Awards were also conferred to the following School Collaborations:

**Gold Awards**
- Let’s Stroll in the Streets
- Entrepreneurs’ Bazaar
- Rivers - An Elixir of Life

**Merit Awards**
- The Power of Songs
- What Matters in Your Life?
- Uniquely Us: Publish It!

[CLICK HERE to read more](#)
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.
Governance

The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series is the central element of ASEF’s work under the theme of Governance. Initiated by the Foreign Ministers of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) at their first meeting in 1997, this Seminar series remains the only multilateral human rights dialogue platform between Asian and European government representatives and civil society members.


5-7 November 2018
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Over 110 international experts, civil society representatives and government officials gathered together for three days of shared dialogue. 4 main topics were focused on during the Seminar’s four working groups, including: Push & Pull Factors; Targeting Violent Extremism at the Local Level; Women’s Involvement, Rights & Security; and Youth, Education & Prevention of Violent Extremism.

Throughout the Seminar, human rights were portrayed not as hindrance to anti-radicalisation.
policies and laws, but as strong levers that can rebalance power, which is a key determinant in the prevention of extreme attitudes that lead to violence.

3 high-level keynote experts spoke at the opening plenary, including Ms Kate GILMORE, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, Geneva), Mr Steven SIQUEIRA, Deputy Director of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UN, New York) and Mr Michael O’FLAHERTY, Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (Vienna). The 18th Informal ASEM Seminar was hosted by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University of Yogyakarta.
As a follow-up to the 17th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS17), held last November 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria, ASEF organised the training component of the 17th Seminar, on the Seminar’s theme of Human Rights and Children, in partnership with Leiden University. Over the course of three and a half days, 18 participants, composing both ASEM government officials and a few civil society members, explored topical children’s rights issues with Asian and European scholars and international child rights’ using a multidisciplinary approach encompassing legal, business and NGO perspective.

The training allowed the participants to get a wider overview about the problems and possible solutions affecting children rights in Asia and Europe. 3 key stakeholders from ASEMHRS17 were part of the training: European Main Rapporteur Prof. Ton LIEFAARD, Rapporteur Ms Amihan ABUEVA and Bulgarian Co-host Ms Ophelia KANEVA.
PUBLIC OUTREACH

Briefing at the European Parliament

13 September 2018
Strasbourg, France

During a briefing at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, ASEF staff presented the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series to the Members of the European Parliament (MEP) and their representatives. The meeting, which was hosted by the MEP Barbara LOCHBIHLER, Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights (DROI), was attended by European Parliament representatives from 5 European Union member states, including Romania, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Spain. The briefing focused on the role of the Seminar in promoting dialogue between Asia and Europe over the past two decades (1997-2017) and it was conducted by Rolf RING, Deputy Director at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (Sweden) and Dr. Genevieve BARRE, then Director of the Governance and Economic Department.

Outreach Effort at the International Symposium on “Deprivation of Liberty of Children in the Justice System”

13 April 2018
Leiden, Netherlands


Speaking to an international audience on children rights experts, Ms WAGNER highlighted the achievements of the ASEM-level human rights dialogue that has enabled greater people-to-people exchange of perspectives between Asia and Europe, and the discourse on Human Rights in the two regions.
The Training has 2 components: the Face-to-face Training and the Online Course.

The 6th edition of the Training put a premium on building and strengthening networks among young diplomats and civil servants across Asia and Europe. Hence, a new approach was introduced wherein the selected participants for the Face-to-face Training were the same for the Online Course.

The Training was supported by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative – 6th Face-to-face Training (PDT6)

3-7 December
Vienna, Austria

Participants from 18 ASEM Partners gathered in the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to hone their public diplomacy skills and establish cross-regional networks.

The 6th Face-to-face Training enabled participants to acquire core public diplomacy skills including political communication and e-diplomacy. Participants learned about the cross-perceptions that have shaped the image of Asian and European countries. During the training, the 22 diverse participants were divided into small groups to work on several challenging tasks, which allowed them to share best practices with and learn from their Asian and/or European counterparts.

Some of the key speakers of the Face-to-face training were: Dr Johannes PETERLIK, Austrian Deputy Minister of
These young professionals from Asia and Europe were assigned to identify possible solutions to modern-day public diplomacy challenges, during a group exercise.

Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Dr Emil BRIX, Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Austria; Dr Alexander MÜHLEN, retired German Ambassador; Dr Lay Hwee YEO, Director of the EU Centre in Singapore; and Mr Odo MANUHUTU, former Director of the Senior Diplomatic Training at the Indonesian MFA.

The 6th Face-to-face Training was completed with a roundtable discussion with representatives from Asian and European Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The high-calibre panel was comprised of: H.E. Ms Renu PALL, Ambassador of India to Austria; Mr Peter GUSCHELBAUER, Spokesperson of the Austrian MFA; and Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF’s Executive Director. The panellists emphasised that the diversity between Asia and Europe has the potential to create new opportunities for the benefit of both regions.
Economy

Together with its partners of the Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF), ASEF addresses current economic issues and long-term trends impacting Asian and European societies in line with ASEM’s political and economic agenda concerning the international financial and economic situation across ASEM constituencies.
15th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF15)
17–18 October 2018
Brussels, Belgium

Hosted by Bruegel, AEEF15 was held in conjunction with the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12), 18-19 October 2018. The AEEF brought together high-level economists and representatives of ministries and corporate circles to exchange ideas and elaborate on the theme of “Europe and Asia: Global Partners for Global Challenges”, with a specific focus on monetary and housing policy, international trade and Asia-Europe connectivity.

The closed-door sessions addressed the influence of monetary policy on financial stability, reviewed the current state of financial regulation at the global level and discussed international trade from the perspective of Asia-Europe connectivity. The public sessions attracted an audience of over 250 participants. The speakers noted that mercantilist thinking is increasingly unsuitable for our rapidly changing economic situation and agreed that the rise of protectionist governments required a new approach to maintain a multilateral system.

The aim of the AEEF is to strengthen ASEM-wide cooperation and Asia-Europe collaboration in tackling global economic challenges and leadership.
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 as well as the needs of stakeholders at international, regional, and national levels, ASEF’s activities in this field focus on contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) aims to foster inter-regional cooperation between Europe and Asia on sustainable development and its environment 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.

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) consortium comprises the following partners:

Financially supported by:

The ENVforum held a 2-day conference entitled, “Asia-Europe Pathways Towards Responsible Consumption & Production: From Linear to the Circular Economy” for various stakeholders from Asia and Europe working on sustainability issues and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12).
The conference explored topics related to Voluntary National Reviews, the role of government and the private sector in ensuring sustainable consumption and production (SCP), gender equality and financing. Through enhanced exchanges between multiple stakeholders, the conference contributed to a better understanding of the economic and political transition leading towards SDG 12 and a circular economy.

The keynote remarks delivered by Mr Robert BARTOLD, Director General, Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, Poland, and Mr Marcin OCIEPA, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, Poland, highlighted the importance of national efforts in promoting sustainable development in Poland.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.

4th CLMV Regional Conference & 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

26-27 March 2018
28-30 March 2018
Bangkok, Thailand

The keynote remarks delivered by Mr Robert BARTOLD, Director General, Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, Poland, and Mr Marcin OCIEPA, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, Poland, highlighted the importance of national efforts in promoting sustainable development in Poland.

The ENVforum held a 1.5-day regional conference on “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation” for policymakers from Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV). This conference was the fourth regional event on the implementation of SDGs that has been jointly carried out by ASEF, HSF and the governments of CLMV countries since 2014 under ENVforum. The focus of 2018 conference was on the countries’ progress on national SDGs implementation and the peer-to-peer discussion of challenges faced on the
The conference was organised back to back with the 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).

Dr Darm SUKONTASAP, ASEF Governor from Thailand, in his keynote speech, lauded the interest in the SDGs coming from the CLMV countries and stressed that SDGs provide a platform for transparency as well as coordination among the CLMV countries.

At the 5th APFSD, ENVforum participated in the Pavilion of Partnerships which provided an informal and inclusive platform for all stakeholders to share good practices for integrated and inclusive approaches for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF) 2018**

29-31 October 2018

Incheon, Korea

The ENVforum contributed to the 2018 Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF), entitled “Accelerating Progress towards the SDGs: Enhancing the Role of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)”. Being a partner to the forum since its inception in 2014, ENVforum brought experts and government officials involved in SDGs implementation. Over 100 international participants from governments, UN agencies, think tanks, development banks and academic institutions attended the forum.

This year the SDTF focused on establishing an interface between the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the different state and non-state actors and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA, Senior Project Manager from ASEF, facilitated a session entitled “Public Institutions at National and Local Level: How Ready are They to Implement the 2030 Agenda?” which looked at best practices and challenges of SDGs implementation, and cross-ministerial coordination and coherence.

The SDTF was organised by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD).
Myanmar National Workshop & Publication Launch

30 August 2018
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) held a national workshop on "International Practices in SDGs Implementation" for policymakers from Myanmar. The workshop offered government officials from multiple-line ministries a platform to discuss challenges the country faces in implementing SDGs, and potential steps and measures to be taken following the lessons learnt from other ASEM partners. In doing so, the workshop also launched the Burmese edition of the Implementation Guide for the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his keynote remarks, H.E. U Set AUNG, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar, stressed the importance of transitioning from sectoral to strategic planning to ensure policy coherence in the country.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
Side-event at UN Climate Change Conference (COP24)
10 December 2018
Katowice, Poland

The ENVforum co-organised a side event entitled “Asia-Europe Cooperation on Low Carbon Development” at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP24, in Katowice, Poland.

The session explored innovative practices from Asia and Europe and opportunities for cooperation in promoting low carbon technologies, securing financing resources and utilising Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. It concluded with a consensus from all panellists that while individual commitment is a good

Participants attending the Side-event at UN Climate Change (COP24)

Speakers at the ENVforum side event at COP24 in Katowice, Poland
starting point, multi-stakeholder collaboration and mutual learning is necessary to go further.

The Opening Remarks were delivered by Mr Kak-Soo SHIN, Senior Advisor, CSDLAP & Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea and Ms Young Sook YOO, Co-President, Climate Change Center (CCC) & Former Minister of Environment of Republic of Korea.

The side-event was co-organised with Climate and Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLAP) and the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD).
The ASEF Public Health Network (ASEFPHN) is part of the ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza. The initiative was officially launched in 2009 with financial support of the Government of Japan. The ASEFPHN has been promoting bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases, including pandemic influenza.
ASEF Public Health Network (ASEFPHN) 10th Anniversary Event
High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC):
“UHC as a Tool to Combat Infectious Diseases”
30-31 May 2018
Tokyo, Japan

In 2018, ASEFPHN has expanded its scope of work into the combined areas of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). As the 10th anniversary event of ASEM initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, ASEFPHN together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan hosted a High-level Meeting on UHC as it is important to have a resilient healthcare system for effective pandemic preparedness and response.

The meeting had a special focus on AMR, an emerging global health threat. AMR is often described as the “Climate Change” of health due to its seriousness and impact. AMR can be a trigger to the next pandemic if appropriate measures are not taken. Gathering diverse stakeholders across Asia and Europe, ASEFPHN provided a platform for a policy dialogue linking 2 important global health agenda: UHC and AMR.

This project is sponsored by the Government of Japan.
High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies: “How Can We Include Migrants & Ethnic Minorities”

10-11 September 2018
Paris, France

In 2018, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Santé publique France jointly hosted the “High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies” with a special focus on how to reach special populations, including migrants and ethnic minorities.

The overall aim of this High-level Meeting was to strengthen countries’ capacity to support Emergency Risk Communication (ERC) for Public Health Emergencies (PHE), especially in relation to migrants and ethnic minorities. It explored difficulties in engaging migrants/ethnic minority groups at the time of PHE. The High-level Meeting identified possible obstacles to include migrants and ethnic minorities in ERC and developed strategies to communicate risks to such population before, during and after PHE.

CLICK HERE to read more
Media

Through its media projects, ASEF creates unique networking platforms for an exchange of views and ideas as well as cooperation among mass media representatives of Asia and Europe. The media projects address themes aligned with the agenda of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) which examine current issues relevant to Asia-Europe relations, challenges faced by the media industry, as well as the professional development of media personnel.
9th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ASEFERT9)

15-16 October 2018
Brussels, Belgium

With the theme “Exploring the Battlefronts of ‘Fake News’: A Tripartite Approach to the Fight Against Misinformation”, ASEFERT9 was organised on the sidelines of the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) in October 2018.

The roundtable featured the participation of key stakeholder groups on the topic of ‘fake news’: news editors and senior journalists, policy makers, civil society representatives and media technology companies, for a total of 28 participants.

The 2-day event was a platform to exchange experiences on how “fake news” is being tackled across various sectors in the ASEM member countries represented.

ASEFERT9 concluded with a Public Forum entitled “Maintaining Truth & Trust in Media in the Digital Age”, featuring panellists from the roundtable and attended by 50 audience members comprising mainly of stakeholders based in Brussels.

This project is co-funded by the European Union.
ASEF Support to the ASEM Cultural Festival (ASEMfest): Europe Meets Asia, Asia Meets Europe
An official side-event of the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12)
18-30 October 2018
Brussels, Belgium

The ASEM Cultural Festival showcased the best of traditional and contemporary art from the two continents. 18 arts events were presented over 13 days to 120,000 people at the Centre for Fine Arts - BOZAR. ASEM Leaders “welcomed the principle of having regular ASEM Cultural Festivals in connection with ASEM Summits and ASEM Foreign Minister Meetings to strengthen inter-cultural dialogue among ASEM partners” (Chair’s Statement, ASEM12).

Key highlights included:

- Singing Masks by Belgian artist, Honoré D’O, combining digital and musical forms
- Musical concerts, ranging from classical to popular from Mongolia (baritone Ariunbaatar GANBAATAR), Russian Federation (organist Svetlana BEREZHNAYA) and the Philippines (singer Katchry Jewel GOLBIN)

ASEM Leaders commended the ASEM Cultural Festival, Europe Meets Asia, Asia Meets Europe, which showcased creativity from both regions in Brussels for 2 weeks.
Dance performances, ranging from classical to contemporary: a retelling of the Spanish classic Don Quixote in the classical Indian form, kathakali, by Margi Kathakali Company and I am a Demon by the Thai dancer, Pichet KLUNCHUN.

Visual arts exhibitions from China, Republic of Korea, Spain and the Philippines with artists Hui ZHAO, LEE Lee-Nam, Miguel Ángel BELINCHÓN BUJES (a.k.a. Belin), Wesley VALENZUELA.

Public forums with writers and architects (author Jean-Phillipe TOUSSAINT, architect Paul ROBBRECHT and architect Wang SHU).

Film programme with cinema from China, France and Japan (featuring filmmakers Bi GAN, Damien MANIVEL, Ila BÉKA, Kohei IGARASHI, Louise LEMOINE and Ryusuke HAMAGUCHI).

ASEM Leaders recognised the importance of cultural diplomacy initiatives – such as the ASEM Cultural Festival – to deepen international cultural dialogue among the 53 ASEM Partners.

This project is funded by the European Union.
Outreach Programme

Inaugural ASEF Day
1 February 2018
Singapore

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s ASEF Day was inaugurated at a reception held at ASEF premises. The Chair of ASEF’s Board of Governors and ASEF Governor from Mongolia, Ambassador TUMUR Lkhagvadorj, graced the inauguration as the Guest-of-Honour. The event brought together Singapore-based ASEF Governors, other Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Ambassadors and High Commissioners, senior officials from the Singapore Government as well as project partners and ASEF alumni. On the occasion, Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director of ASEF, also announced the launch of the “ASEF Diversity Creates Award”.

Annual Meeting of the Polish Community
12 March 2018
Singapore

Over 40 Polish professionals residing and working in Singapore gathered at ASEF premises for their annual meeting. The event was graced by the ASEF Governor from Poland, Ambassador Zenon KOSINIAK-KAMYSZ, as Guest-of-Honour. Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director of ASEF, introduced ASEF’s unique network and programmes across Asia and Europe to the Polish audience present that evening.
Seminar & Book Launch
22 March 2018
Singapore

ASEF and the Embassy of Hungary in Singapore jointly organised a seminar on the “Complexity in Connectivity – Europe & Asia in the New Geopolitical Order”. The ASEF Governor from Hungary, Ambassador Dr István SZERDAHELYI, was the Guest-of-Honour at the event. Over 40 guests, including academics, tertiary students and ASEF staff, attended the talk which was led by Mr Parag KHANNA, geopolitical expert and Senior Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, as well as Mr Norbert CSIZMADIA who launched his book, “GeoFusion: Mapping the 21st Century”, during the event. Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director of ASEF, also introduced ASEF to the audience during his welcome speech.

Diplomatic Spouses’ Networking Session
19 April 2018
Singapore

ASEF hosted the Diplomatic Spouses’ Networking Session which was attended by over 35 women including spouses of ASEF Governors and of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Ambassadors and High Commissioners. Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director of ASEF, made a presentation on ASEF to the audience, while Ms Lavinia THANAPATHY, President of PrimeTime Business & Professional Women’s Association, and 3rd Vice President of the Singapore Council of Women’s Organisation (SCWO), presided over the networking session.

ASEF Diversity Creates Award 1997-2017
7 June 2018
Bucharest, Romania

ASEF celebrated the winners of the ASEF Diversity Creates Award in conjunction with the 38th ASEF Board of Governors’ Meeting (ASEFBoG38). The Award honoured individuals and institutions who had made significant contributions to furthering ASEF’s mission over the 20 years since ASEF was established. The winners were Dr YEO Lay Hwee (Singapore), Mr Rolf RING (Sweden), the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS; Germany) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN).
Initiated by ASEF through its online portal culture360.ASEF.org in 2012, the Mobility Funding Guides for International Cultural Exchange in Asia and Europe provide a comprehensive and updated list of funding opportunities for the cultural mobility of artists and cultural practitioners in Asia and Europe.

In 2018, updated Guides for Bangladesh, Greece and Portugal were published in partnership with On the Move, the European network for cultural mobility.

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Since 2015, culture360.ASEF.org has been publishing Creative Responses to Sustainability, a series of country-specific guides looking at cultural initiatives engaging with sustainability in different countries in Asia and Europe. The Guide for Australia is the 5th in the series. It features a directory of 25 most pioneering cultural organisations contributing to social change through their artistic practice.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC): UHC as a Tool to Combat Infectious Diseases, with a particular focus on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

December 2018

This report captures the highlight of the High-level Meeting held on 30-31 May 2018, in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting uniquely combined two important topics of global health – UHC and AMR. It intended to identify practical strategies for integrating a concern for AMR into UHC strategies as well as for taking UHC into account in AMR National Action Plans. It also sought an agreement on priorities for cross-country cooperation between Asia and Europe. The report provides 10 action points from the conclusions based on the experts’ presentations and discussions.

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MEDIA

The Role of Journalism in Asia-Europe Digital Connectivity

September 2018

The ASEF Media Handbook is written by journalists for journalists. It is a result of exchanges between Asia-Europe media professionals. The Handbook tackles a specific area of journalism and its challenges. It also presents suggestions for better quality stories based on experiences and insights shared during the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) media projects.

CLICK HERE to download
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, economy, sustainable development, public health and media. Visitors have access to information on participation as well as latest ASEF publications, news articles, and links to partner organisations. In 2018, the website received 354,422 visitors.

www.ASEF.org

ASEF CULTURE360

ASEF’s arts website offering up-to-date information on arts, culture and heritage from the 53 ASEM Partners. Over the past decade, the website has been providing free access to updated and relevant information for artists, arts organisations and policymakers. It remains the only website offering such a service in the ASEM context and has been recognised as a good model for information exchange between the two regions by UNESCO and the European Union. It publishes over 500 news and opportunities each year and commissions special reports. In 2018, the website received 205,000 unique visitors.

www.culture360.ASEF.org

ASIA-EUROPE MUSEUM NETWORK (ASEMUS)

The website of the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) is hosted on culture360.ASEF.org and promotes information exchange between museum professionals in Asia and Europe. It publishes over 200 news and events each year. In 2018, the website received 74,200 visitors.

www.asemus.culture360.ASEF.org

ASEF CLASSROOM NETWORK (ASEF CLASSNET)

The ASEF ClassNet web-portal serves as the main platform for communication, networking and collaboration among teachers and students from Asia and Europe.

www.classnet.asef.org

ASEM INFOBOARD (AIB)

Mandated by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Partners, the ASEM InfoBoard (AIB) 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
Newsletters

ASEF eNEWSLETTER
The ASEF eNewsletter is an information source for the organisation’s latest and upcoming projects and activities. Published monthly, the eNewsletter currently reaches over 24,000 subscribers in Asia and Europe.

ASEF CULTURE360 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 2018, the newsletter reached over 13,000 subscribers every month.

ASEMUS 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 ASEM region. In 2018, the newsletter reached 1,900 subscribers.

ASEM INFOBOARD NEWSLETTER
The ASEM Infoboard Newsletter updates every month on upcoming ASEM meetings and activities. The newsletter reaches out to over 2,000 subscribers and stakeholders monthly.
“The ATI was more than happy to host the 1st edition of ASEF Unplugged in Prague in May 2018 and stressed again the importance of cooperation between Asia and the Czech Republic. The interest from Czech participants about this event and especially ASEF’s Mobility First! programme even exceeded our expectations! More than 50 Czech artists and cultural operators had a long debate with a lot of questions.”

Pavla PETROVÁ, Director, Arts and Theatre Institute (ATI) & General Director of Prague Quadrennial 2019, Czech Republic, & partner of 1st Edition of ASEF Unplugged
May 2018

“ASEF’s Mobility First! programme provided crucial connections and support towards engaging artists from across Southeast Asia to participate in the Borak Arts Series in Adelaide. This helped ensure that artists and producers from across the region had an opportunity to travel to the highly regarded conference, which was held outside of Malaysia for the first time and forged strong ties with the Australian performing arts sector.”

Joseph MITCHELL, Artistic Director of OzAsia Festival & Adelaide Festival Centre, Australia & partner of Mobility First!
November 2018

“Creating strong links and relationships between Asia and Europe is integral to the united development of the two continents. ASEF achieves this on many levels and has a great power in mainstreaming important topics such as sustainability. I’m really interested in creating networking, educational and development opportunities in the future, and I think ASEF is a leading example of how to facilitate and execute these to the highest standards.”

Kate REED, participant of 22nd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU22), United Kingdom
September 2018
“The interactions with fellow educators in a highly immersive networking environment has helped me understand different learning cultures as well as education systems. It has broadened my perspective on the various pathways to success through education, and has helped me deepen my reflection on my own education system and personal beliefs in education.”

Melvin NG, Head of Science Department, Changkat Changi Secondary School, Singapore & participant of 14th ASEF Classroom Network Conference (ASEF ClassNet14)

November 2018

“As a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Planning Officer, I deal with a lot of ethical considerations when working with local communities. Joining the 3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3) and the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) enabled me to rethink my own relation to ethics, to make well-informed decisions in the future.”

Phat NGUYEN, participant of 3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3) & 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12), Viet Nam

October 2018

“I have participated in a few events (Informal ASEM Human Rights Seminar series) and I see their high value. I see their importance, for example, in sharing practice across our regions. We continue to learn so much from each other's experience and we, in Europe, continue to have so much that we should take, in terms of good practice, from Asian countries.”

Michael O’FLAHERTY, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Austria, & speaker at 18th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS18)

December 2018
Voices

“As before participating the Asia-Europe Environment Forum Annual Conference 2018, the notion of Sustainable Development was just a food for thought to me. I never thought that from personal level I can contribute to the sustainability of the world’s development. … I now follow needs-based consumption patterns rather than trends or fashion.”

Asadul HAQUE, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh & participant of ENVforum Annual Conference 2018
October 2018

“The ASEF Public Diplomacy Training has equipped me with practical knowledge and skills that will enable me to craft public diplomacy campaigns that will truly resonate with the target audience. Diplomacy is not just about governments talking to other governments. Diplomacy is about forging connections between and among cultures and people in order for humanity to appreciate what makes each of us unique while at the same time to find the common thread that binds us as one.”

Stacy ALCANTARA, Third Secretary at the Embassy of the Philippines in London, & participant of 6th ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (ASEFPDT6)
December 2018

“This is the challenge that Asian countries have to think about: apart from the role of the media, the government, the agencies – what about on the people’s side, the citizens? What can we do for them? The best thing is education, to educate them to solve one thing: fake news.”

Micky JONGYOTING, Senior International News Editor, Spring News TV, Thailand & participant of 9th ASEF Editors’ Roundtable (ASEFERT9)
October 2018
Social Media
(Figures as at 31 December 2018)

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF):

3,813 Followers
Culture360:

11,235 Followers
ASEFEdu:

1,415 Followers

facebook.com/AsiaEuropeFoundation
twitter.com/aseforg

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF):

35,178 Followers
Culture360:

52,353 Followers
ASEFEdu:

36,044 Followers

facebook.com/AsiaEuropeFoundation

LinkedIn

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF):

7,139 Followers
linkedin.com/company/asia-europe-foundation

Annual Report 2018
## Contributions Received from ASEF Members

Receipts have been converted to Singapore Dollars (SGD) at transaction date rates. * Unaudited figures as at 08 May 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASEF Member</th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Project Fund (incl Trust Fund)</th>
<th>Reserve Fund</th>
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The contributions received from ASEF Members 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 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 ASEF members which have seconded staff to the Foundation in the year 2018, 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.
2018 Expenditure Summary
(as at 30 April 2019)

ASEF's annual audit has not been completed at the time of printing. The financial figures reported on page 66 are unaudited figures. ASEF's audited financial statements are available separately at a later date.
Partners & Supporters

Partners

• 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage – European Commission (EC)
• ADB Institute
• Adelaide Festival Centre (Australia)
• Administrative Department of Tourism of Istrian Region (Croatia)
• Algebra University College (Croatia)
• An Ordinary City (Viet Nam)
• Arts and Theatre Institute (Czech Republic)
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• Arts Council of Mongolia (Mongolia)
• ASEM Education Secretariat (Belgium)
• ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC)
• Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)
• Association Lijepa Naša (Croatia)
• Association of Employers in Croatian Hospitality (UPUHH) (Croatia)
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• Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (UK)
• Borak Arts Series (Malaysia)
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• Bruegel (Belgium)
• Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) (Cambodia)
• Centre 42 Limited (Singapore)
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• Comenius University in Bratislava – Faculty of Social & Economic Sciences (Slovakia)
• Council of Europe (CoE)
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• Cultural Dialogue (Kazakhstan)
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• Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Australia)
• Department of Foreign Affairs (Philippines)
• Dhaka DocLab (Bangladesh)
• Edward Bernays University College (Croatia)
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• Eu-Asia Centre (Belgium)
• Euractive (Belgium)
• European Cultural Foundation (ECF) (Netherlands)
• European Disability Forum (EDF)
• European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts) (Germany)
• European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)
• European Students’ Forum (AEGEE-Europe)
• European Students’ Union (ESU)
• European Union (EU)
• Europe-Asia Roundtable Sessions (EARS) (Finland)
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• Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration & Foreign Affairs (Austria)
• Federal Public Service, Foreign Affairs (Belgium)
• Foreign Trade & Development Cooperation (Belgium)
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• Good Place (Slovenia)
• Government of Japan
• Government of Sweden
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• Griffith Film School (Australia)
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• Hostelling International Urban Adventures
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• Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) (Japan)
• International Association of Political Science (IAPSS)
• International Federation of Arts Councils & Culture Agencies (IFACCA) (Australia)
• Korean National Commission for UNESCO (Korea)
• Korea University (Korea)
• Leiden Law School, Leiden University (Netherlands)
• Main in Main LLC (Russian Federation)
• Ministry of Culture (Bulgaria)
• Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (Singapore)
• Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Korea)
• Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Viet Nam)
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- Ministry of Education, Science, Research & Sport (Slovakia)
- Ministry of Europe & Foreign Affairs (France)
- Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs (Slovakia)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (New Zealand)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (China) Sichuan University (China)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Slovenia)
- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Croatia)
- Ministry of Investment and Economic Development (Poland)
- Ministry of Planning & Finance (MOPF) (Myanmar)
- Ministry of Planning (Cambodia)
- Ministry of Planning and Investment (Lao PDR)
- Ministry of Planning and Investment (Viet Nam)
- Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF) (Cambodia)
- Ministry of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council (Bulgaria)
- Ministry of Planning and Investment (Myanmar)
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- On The Move (OTM) (Belgium)
- Plasticity Theatre Troupe (Malaysia)
- Polo Cultural Gaivotas Boavista (Lisbon City Council) (Portugal)
- Press Club Brussels Europe (Belgium)
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) (Sweden)
- Regional Asia Environment Conference Support Programme (Sweden)
- RMIT University (Australia)
- Salzburg Global Seminar (Austria)
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- Santé publique France (SPF) (France)
- Sarawak State Museum (Malaysia)
- Save the Cultural Heritage Group (Pakistan)
- SkillWise (New Zealand)
- SPD (Singapore)
- Swinburne University of Technology (Australia)
- Symbiosis International (Deemed) University (India)
- The Mumbai Assembly (India)
- Tourism Board Alliance for Innovators & Researchers in Tourism & Hospitality (AIRT) (Slovenia)
- UNESCO Almaty Office (Kazakhstan)
- United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)
- University of Alicante (Spain)
- University of Canterbury (New Zealand)
- University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Economics (Slovenia)
- University of Primorska - Faculty of Tourism Studies (Slovenia)
- Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS) (Australia)
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Belgium
- Embassy of Mongolia in Belgium
- Embassy of Spain in Belgium
- Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Belgium
- Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Belgium
- Erasmus Students Network (ESN) (Belgium)
- European External Action Service (EEAS) (EU)
- European Students’ Forum (AEGEE-Europe)
- European Students’ Union (ESU)
- European Union
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland
- Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration & Foreign Affairs, (Austria)
- Government of Japan
- Government of Sweden
- IHECS Business School (Belgium)
- Indian Cultural Centre - Brussels Mandir in Belgium
- International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS)
- Korean Cultural Center (Belgium)
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Finland)
- Ministry of Education and Culture (Finland)
- Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the European Union in Belgium
- Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the European Union in Belgium
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Supporters

- Art Museum Riga Bourse (Latvia)
- Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- City of Helsinki (Finland)
- DG CONNECT (EU)
- Embassy of France in Belgium
- Embassy of India in Belgium
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, economy, sustainable development, public health and media.

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).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 150 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF’s activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe.

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For more information, please visit www.ASEMinfoboard.org

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