Looking Ahead

- SINGAPORE
  Cultural Partnership Mapping – 2nd Preparatory Meeting
  With support from the Ministry of Information, Communication, and the Arts (Singapore)

- SINGAPORE
  Asia-Europe Programme for Emerging Public Sector Leaders (PEPSL)
  Co-organised with the Singapore Civil Service College

- SINGAPORE
  Asia-Europe Digital Film Workshop (ASEF Cultural Grants)
  In cooperation with the 18th Singapore International Film Festival, in partnership with Vortex eTech, Singapore

- NAGOYA, JAPAN
  Asia-Japan Journalists’ Conference 2005
  Co-organised with EC Delegation, Japan

- BERLIN, GERMANY
  4th Asia-Europe Roundtable
  "Conflict Prevention: Actors, Institutions and Mechanisms: Experiences between Asia and Europe" – Co-organised with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs

- PARIS, FRANCE
  The Annual Asia Europe Workshop Series 2005/2006 Selection Committee Meeting
  Co-organised with the European Alliance for Asian Studies

ASEM

- PORTUGAL; LUXEMBOURG; BELGIUM; FRANCE
  Cultural & Civilizations Dialogue Programme
  Lecture Tours 2004/2005
  Speaker: Mr. Djounda, SIP (Indonesia)

- BARCELONA, SPAIN
  Barcelona Asian Film Festival (ASEF Cultural Grants)
  Co-organised with Barcelona Asian Film Festival

- COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
  ASEM Education Hub for Lifelong Learning Studies
  Co-organised with the Danish University of Education and supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- KYOTO, JAPAN
  ASEM Journalists’ Seminar
  On the occasion of 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

- SINGAPORE
  Cultural Partnership Mapping – Vision Group Meeting
  Co-organised with the Ministry of Information, Communication, and the Arts (Singapore)

- HANGZHOU, CHINA
  ASEF-European Alliance for Asian Studies Workshop
  "First EU-ASEM Workshop on Sustainable Resource Management and Policy Options for Rice Ecosystems in Asia" – Convenors: Wageningen University (the Netherlands) and Zhongshan University (China)

- LEIDEN, THE NETHERLANDS
  ASEM Education Hub for Environmental Studies
  Co-organised with the University of Leiden and the International Institute for Asian Studies

- 30 – 31 May / Brussels, Belgium
  8th Meeting of the ASEM Customs Enforcement Working Group (ECWG)

- SHANGHAI, CHINA
  ASEM Young Political Leaders’ Forum
  27th May – 28th May: Shanghai

- SINGAPORE
  ASEM Educating the Young through Youth Games
  6-8 June / Pencak Silat, Brunei Darussalam

- SINGAPORE
  ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilizations
  7th – 13 June: S.E.A. Games

- LEIDEN, THE NETHERLANDS
  ASEM Education Hub for Environmental Studies
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**ASFE Asian Lecture Tour**

**‘From Bullets to Ballots and Beyond: Building Post-conflict Democracies in Asia and Europe’**

12 February 2005

Singapore, Phnom Penh, Jakarta, Bangkok, Athens, Tokyo

**UPdate**

"What a challenge this was - and yet so rewarding! Living up to the high quality of the debate, taking note of so many issues, weaving one's way through a true maze of different viewpoints, all of them so well argued but most challenging of all was 'digesting' all this and finding the commonsound shared by Asia and Europe! And Asia and Europe do have a common ground to stand on!“ Plamen Tonchev

Plamen Tonchev, Head of Asia Unit at the Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER) in Athens, Greece, participated in the 9th Lecture Tour under the Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue Programme.

Mr. Tonchev delivered his lecture entitled "From Bullets to Ballots and Beyond: Building Post-conflict Democracies in Asia and Europe," in 6 institutions throughout Southeast and Northwest Asia. The topic focused on the issue of the democracy building in post-conflict situations through 4-case studies of Cambodia, East Timor, Bosnia and Cyprus.

During Mr. Tonchev's opening lecture at the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF), Mr. Rodolfo Savaria, former Secretary-General of ASEAN and Research Fellow at the Institute of South-East Asian Studies provided interesting insights, in particular, regarding the ASEAN perspective and approach to this issue in his role as discussant.

A lively discussion between Mr. Tonchev and the audience followed, analysing issues such as multilateralism in the management of conflicts and post-conflict situations, longer-term perspectives in the building of democracies and whether the elaboration of a model to post-conflict democracy building and recovery was possible.

After ASEF (Singapore), Mr. Tonchev proceeded to Phnom Penh University (Phnom Penh), the Center for Strategic and International Studies (Jakarta), the Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok), ASEAN Research Institute (Ritsers, Tokyo) and the United Nations University (Tokyo).

The full text of the lecture is available on the Culture & Civilisations Dialogue website at www.culturedialogue.asf.org. For more information, please contact sohitn.Lavas@asf.org
The Asia-Europe Colloquy Series, an initiative developed within the framework of the ASEM Education Hub, aims to provide a forum for universities and institutions of higher education in ASEM countries to discuss areas of mutual concern and common challenges in the field of education, as well as possible strategies toward closer academic co-operation. The Asia Europe Colloquy on Universities of Tomorrow was co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation and the University of Luxembourg with support from the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prominent academics shared their views and perspectives on the challenges facing universities in Asia and Europe, drawing a fresh outlook on possible scenarios on the future of universities, academia and students in Asia and Europe. Topics discussed during the conference included perspectives on managing the impact of globalisation and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on higher education institutions in Asia and Europe, enhancing international education activities and identifying obstacles to closer inter-university co-operation within and between the two regions, prospects for e-Learning, strengthening relationships between the business and education sectors, the concept of university autonomy and the role of the state in higher education in the 21st century, and the need for closer Asia Europe inter-university co-operation and its strong potential in the field of disaster response and co-ordination. Professor Robin Mason, hailing from the Open University, United Kingdom presented a list of challenges for universities and institutions of higher learning.

Dr Mukesh Agih CEO of Universitas 21 Global presented strategies of an online university competing in the global marketplace. Renowned author Dr Sohail Inayatullah gave a stimulating presentation on different scenarios of the future universities, concluding, "The University is not dead but transforming. The key is to find the leaders of influence... then you can be part of creating in the direction you wish, instead of where others want it to go."

Dr Leo Goedegebuure, Executive Director of the Institute of Governance, University of Twente presented a paper that touched on the challenges of university administrators. Professor Emeritus Dr Jorg Negendank of the University of Potsdam and the GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam in Germany highlighted the potential for Asia Europe inter-university cooperation in establishing an early warning system for natural disasters.

A publication encapsulating perspectives and conclusions from the conference, including recommendations on initiatives to improve the relationship between Asia and Europe, shall be released later this year.
Inspired by acclaimed international Thai artist, Inson Wongsam, the International Symposium Public Art Intervention was the culmination of a year long community art project entitled Fly with Me to Another World in Lamphun and Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Chiang Mai and Fukuoka based artist Nawan Rawanchakul launched this project of linking the local with the international, to parallel the journeys of Inson and himself.

The aims of the Public Art Intervention were to evaluate the impact of the project, address the positions of indigenous traditions within contemporary contexts, discuss contemporary art's dialogue with community, explore potential collaborations among artists, art professionals and community organizers which creatively address social and environmental concerns, inspire social commitment in the new generation and pave the way for interdisciplinary community art projects.

Featuring 220 local, regional and international participants, the event was enriched by field trips, a film screening and other events in Lamphun and Chiang Mai which also involved local audiences and passers by. Discussions during the symposium were often heated, always engaging and never irrelevant.

ASEF awarded a Cultural Grant in support of the active participation of Carl Michael von Haseloff (Sweden), Manu Latches (UK/Australia), Ata Sswasta (Indonesia), Saikia Bos (Netherlands) and Rokkot Tsumenji (Germany/Thailand) as well as the printing of most of the conference's publications. For more information, please contact asef@asef.org.

The first in a series of three meetings dedicated to the development of a multi-disciplinary Asia-Europe Cultural Portal - a resource tool for the wide spectrum of individuals that make up the artistic and cultural communities of the two regions.

Through this process of Cultural Partnership Mapping, a concept first articulated by the Ministry of Information Communication and the Arts of Singapore, ASEF aims to lay the groundwork for the development of a multi-disciplinary Asia-Europe Cultural Portal that will connect the cultural communities of the two regions. It will provide real-time information, artist directories, useful contacts, as well as greater accessibility to funding and grants.

Having commissioned three research papers - the first on the state of art/cultural resources in Asia, the second on Europe and the third on the technical concerns in the implementation of such information portals, ASEF organised this First Preparatory Meeting in order to gather cultural professionals, policymakers, artists and networkers with the aim of brainstorming on the proposed Portal's scope and structure.

This consultation saw presentations from current cultural resource managers as well as the researchers and aimed to establish what exists and what gaps need to be filled with regard to the resources available to cultural practitioners in Asia and Europe. The meeting also placed emphasis on the sustainability of the proposed portal. For more information on this project visit www.asef.org or contact asef@asef.org.
On 23 February 2005, Asia-Europe Foundation celebrated its eighth anniversary with almost 200 friends and guests, including three ASEF governors and over 20 ambassadors, representatives from academia, research institutions, other international organisations, arts, youth, and the media.

ASEF Executive Director, Amb. Wonil Cho delivered welcome remarks and expressed his intentions to revitalise ASEF and to strengthen the relations between ASEF and ASEM by doing more to meet the expectations and decisions of the ASEF leaders.

ASEF Governor for Belgium, Amb. Philippe Knaepkens commented on the relevance and importance of ASEF not just for those directly concerned but further beyond. ASEF is an important link that complements the triangular frame of regional ties among Asia, Europe, and Americas. A special choir performance by the prestigious Seoul Arts School followed, presenting nine traditional and classical songs from Asia and Europe. The performance was met with an overwhelming expression of appreciation from all those present.

The guests were then invited to enjoy the two special exhibitions put together for the occasion: Asia-Europe Photography Exhibitions entitled "Migrations" and "Urban Environment" (two forums that are previously co-organised by ASEF and World Press Photo Foundation); and a poster exhibition, showcasing selected posters from Museum of Asia and Pacific in Warsaw, courtesy of the Embassy of Poland.

The Steering Committee of the Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights series met in Paris, France, on 28 February 2005, to evaluate the outcomes of the previous seminar and to decide on the framework of the forthcoming seminar in this series. The 7th Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights: "Human Rights and Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Minorities" is to be held in Budapest, Hungary, on 23-24 February 2006 (to be confirmed).

Following the 6th Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights on "International Migrations and Human Rights" held on 16-17 September in Suzhou, China, the topic "Human Rights and Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Minorities" was decided upon by the Steering Committee during its recent meeting in Paris, France. It also confirmed the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, as the venue.

The rights of minorities through their relationship with the state and through their international legal status will be discussed. Respecting the formula adopted in the previous seminar, a preliminary report will be produced to stimulate dialogue among the approximately 100 participants representing civil society organisations, and the ASEF government officials divided into two working groups. Two rapporteurs, one from Asia and one from Europe, will also be appointed.

The idea of the Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights was formulated on the occasion of the first meeting of ASEF Foreign Ministers in Singapore in February 1997. The aim of this initiative is to promote better mutual understanding and cooperation in the area of political dialogue, particularly on human rights issues. This annual series, co-organised by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (Sweden) and ASEF (secretariat of the series), has been taking place alternately in Asia and Europe ever since. Academics, NGOs at institutes, trade unions and officials from the relevant ministries of each ASEAN country meet to explore human rights issues such as access to justice, rights to education, freedom of expression, religion, social welfare or economic relations.

The 7th Informal ASEF Human Rights Seminar Steering Committee comprises of Mr. Frédéric Tibergren (State Counsellor, France), Mr. Marc Abinemou (Assistant Director for Northeast Asia and Multilateral Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Prof. Góran Melander (Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute), Dr. Shyn Yongaeiang (Special Representative on Human Rights Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mr Imran Santoso (Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Berend Fort (Director for Intellectual Exchange, ASEF), and Mr. Philippe van Amstendorp (European Commission).

In addition, the meeting was attended by Mr. László Várkonyi (Deputy State Secretary for Bilateral Relations with Extra-European Countries, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Szabolcs Takács (Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ms. Florence Corman, Ms. Iva Bojany (Both French Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Rolf Ring (Raoul Wallenberg Institute) and Prof. Ayat Caglar (Central European University).

For more information, please contact caroline@asef.org.
ASEF Talks on the Hill 6-8 March 2005 Singapore

For this 5th Talks on the Hill, 13 high-level individuals spent two days in intensive discussions on issues concerning sexual minority groups in Asia and Europe.

Once again, this unique meeting series proved to be ideal in encouraging debate and the free-flow of ideas for the participants who each approached the topic from their unique perspectives.

The debate revolved around four main topics:

- The historical evolution of social and political attitudes towards sexual minority groups;
- Cultural traditions and major religious beliefs on homosexuality;
- Issues of human rights and policy-making related to sexual minority groups;
- Projections on the scenarios society will be confronted with as this issue evolves.

ASEF Talks on the Hill meetings adopt the format of think tank style, closed-door sessions that explore issues in a trans-disciplinary spirit. This series brings together prominent activists, journalists, academics and policymakers to discuss and brainstorm issues of pertinence to the two regions in an open, frank and intense manner.

For a report of this meeting as well as past Talks on the Hill, please visit our website www.cihdialogue.asef.org or contact johnk@asef.org.

Eleven women filmmakers from Asia and Europe took part in the International Women Film Festival of Creteil.

They are Yau Ching (Hong Kong, China), Gao Xiaoju (China), Nia di Nata and Nan Ashnas (Indonesia), Sachie Hamamura (Japan), Lee Eun-hee (Korea), Yasmin Ahmad (Malaysia), Orly Castillo (Philippines), Lee Worang and Tanaya Eng (Singapore), Morgenprap Sonekal (Thailand). Apart from the interviews, meetings with the audiences and film professionals, they also had the chance to share their experiences during a special forum on Asian cinema and a solidarity gala for Asia on 18 March 2005.

The jury's prizes on 19 March 2005 were also successful for the Asian women film makers since Yasmin Ahmad got the Jury Grand Prize for "Sepet" and Law Eun Hee got the "Graine de cinéphage" award for "...Eng". Seven of the women filmmakers are now taking part in visits of cinema organisations and meetings with cinema professionals in Paris. Then in April, three of them will be heading to Innsbruck (ELEKTRIO) and Berlin (KINOALLEI) where the Focus on Asia selection will be screened.

The Focus on Asia was kindly supported by the French Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia; the French Consulate in Hong Kong, China; and the Singapore Film Commission.

For more information on the Women Film Makers and the tour of Focus on Asia, please visit www.asef.org/divers/fourthfl/index.html

w Right: A family picture for Yasmin Ahmad with "Sepet" (jury grand prize). The members of the jury unanimously fell in love with the sensibility in the making of Sepet (the originality, the humour, and the wonderful interpretation of the actors), and the sensitive approach that was taken to deliver the film's message - that Love could overcome all differences.

w Below: A reception party for Yasmin Ahmad with "Sepet". The organisers of the Focus on Asia tour went to Innsbruck, Berlin, and Singapore to screen Yasmin's film. It was a great success that the film got a total of 12 awards and prizes at the international festival and was screened in 12 countries around the world.
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Paths to Regionalisation: Comparing Experiences in East Asia & Europe

ISBN No: 981 210 374 0
Editors: Sophie du Roc'h & Bertrand Fort
About the publication: The aim of this book is to explain the different experiences in region-building in East Asia and Europe, the two regions of the world that are making major contributions to the experience (and theory) of region-building. East Asia and Europe have evolved in different ways, with different logics and mechanisms, but it does not mean that they do not have common interests or things to learn from one another. This book seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the experiences and challenges in both regions and to stimulate a much-needed reflection of the benefits of regions to harness globalisation.

ASEF Asia-Europe Fashion

About the publication: Under the theme of "Tradition Meets Future", ten invited designers from Denmark, Italy, Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand including five Vietnamese designers presented their fashion collection during a workshop held on 29-30 September 2004 at the premises of the Gouthe Institute in Hanoi. This magazine feature 11 designers who participated in the workshop and fashion show, as well as Background on the ASEF's Fashion Design Workshop/Fashion Show.

The softcopy of this publication is available under "Publication" section at www.asef.org

Urban Environment

About the publication: This book showcases pictures by 20 aspiring photographers from 19 Asian and European countries, who participated in the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2004. These pictures, brought together in exhibits in Asia and Europe, bear witness to a dynamic and changing city of Hanoi French colonial style buildings mingle with some fine examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture symbols of the global economy and new lifestyles combined with traditional ways of living.

The softcopy of this publication is available under "Publication" section at www.asef.org

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AISEF Strategy presented to SOM
3 March 2005
Jakarta, Indonesia

ASEF Executive Director, Amb. Wonil Cho was invited to Jakarta to present ASEF Strategy at the ASEF Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM). Highlighting ASEF’s contribution for the upcoming ASEM Inter-faith Dialogue and ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilizations, he stressed that ASEF aims to better align with ASEAN’s objectives and that the Foundation will strengthen those flagship projects resulting from the direct initiatives of ASEM process. ASEF will make every effort to contribute to enhancing the viability of ASEM process, and to focus on utmost priorities of the ASEM Leaders. The Foundation will further contribute to projects and be more cost-effective and impact-oriented.

AISEF in
the News

Focus on Asia

Korean angst

1st Asia, Europe music camp

International music camp concert at CCP

Young talents unite in 1st Asia-Europe Music Camp

Opening Plenary Session. Key figures from Asia and Europe in the field of environment and sustainable development will deliver keynote addresses to open the event.

Workshop Sessions: The event shall be a convergence point for workshops and discussions that adhere to the following criteria:

- ASEM Europe relevance. The central issue each workshop shall be of keen interest to various audiences (public, private sector, social sectors) of the ASEM.
- Policy relevance: The central issue of each workshop shall currently or potentially be on the agenda of the ASEM dialogue process.
- Multi-stakeholder participation. Each workshop shall not narrowly focus on analysing or prescribing what the role and responsibility of one particular stakeholder alone but for all stakeholders.

Knowledge-sharing and capacity building. Each workshop shall contribute to structured dissemination of knowledge on central environmental issues.

Sustainable economic growth. Each workshop shall explore actions towards balanced improvement in environmental, social issues, as well as economic dimensions. Each workshop will be hosted by organisations based in ASEM member countries prominent in the field of environment and sustainable development.

Closing Plenary Session. Reports from workshop sessions will be presented to the audience as a wrap-up.

Exhibition Space will be provided throughout to facilitate networking and information-sharing.

Interested in organising a workshop on a specific issue?
For enquires on hosting a workshop and exhibition opportunities to showcase your organisation’s activities, contact the Asia-Europe Environment Forum Secretariat.

Contact:
Bertrand Fort
Director for Intellectual Exchange, ASEF
P: +65 6872 1207
E: ex-info@asef.org
W: http://www.asef.org

Three roundtables have been organised in Bangkok, hosted by UNDP-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (September 2003); in Jopp, back-to-back with UNEP Global Civil Society Forum and Governing Council (March 2004); and, in Stockholm, hosted by the Stockholm Environment Institute (August 2004).