ASEF celebrates its first decade this year. In these first ten years, ASEF has implemented over 310 projects, bringing together more than 13,500 participants and reaching out to an even wider audience in Asia and Europe. To mark this commemorative year, ASEF held a celebration at its premises on Friday 13 April 2007.

With a firm belief in education as the key to the development of the individual and the continued progress of society at large, ASEF programmes in the field of education and academic co-operation emphasise the benefits of multilateral Asia-Europe network and relationship.

More details on pages 8-14
Four activities were commissioned to represent the diversity of ASEF programmes:

- “ASEF, Ten Years and Beyond” Multimedia Exhibition;
- Exhibition on the Artistic Commemorative Collaboration Culture@Xperiments;
- Launch and demonstration of the Database on Educational Exchange Programmes’s Web Portal (as featured in the FOCUS section, pages 8 and 9); and
- Panel on Asia-Europe Dialogue

The event reached its peak with a celebration which saw the presence of about 250 friends, guests and well-wishers. The Guests-of-Honour were Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore H.E. Professor S. Jayakumar and Minister van Staat of the Netherlands H.E. Hans van Mierlo (the two distinguished Foreign Ministers who presided over the inauguration of ASEF). The evening was concluded with a reception, allowing guests to mingle while enjoying the live music and the ongoing exhibitions that took place in all three levels of ASEF building.

Carrying the anniversary theme of “Embracing Diversity, Bridging Peoples, Shaping Partnerships” ASEF also commemorates this year alongside some 20 projects that will be organised over the course of the entire year in various cities across Asia and Europe. Further details about these signature events at other venues during the year can be viewed at our website.
ASEF is uniquely placed to bring civil societies into the ASEM process. It is therefore a crucial focal point for constructive interregional cooperation, contributing greatly to our efforts to rise to the multiple and complex challenges that confront the global community. In this age of globalisation, when uniting in our efforts is the only way to overcome our common challenges, ASEF’s time has truly come.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United Nations

Over ten years, ASEF has played a fundamental role in bringing together the civil societies of Asia and Europe. In doing so, it has contributed significantly to sharing the development of the intercultural relations between our two regions, which lie at the core of the ASEM process launched in Bangkok in 1996, and in which ASEF has its root.

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
Ten years on, ASEF has matured into a vibrant and proactive institution. It has implemented many exciting initiatives and projects. By complementing the inter-governmental processes and aligning its activities with the formal ASEM process, ASEF serves as a vital partner for ASEM.

**Goh Chok Tong**  
*Senior Minister, Republic of Singapore*

With the founding of ASEF on 15 February 1997 in Singapore, this [Asia-Europe] dialogue was enriched through the involvement of civil society. For it is only through comprehensive dialogue that we can arouse interest and understanding for cultural differences and build bridges between the people of both regions. This has brought Asia and Europe closer together.

**Angela Merkel**  
*Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany*

For the full texts of the leaders’ congratulatory messages, please visit [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

We have created an online guestbook at our website where you can write your birthday wishes for ASEF. You can give us a few lines about your personal involvement and experience with ASEF and how this experience has impacted you personally and professionally. Please visit [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org) and we look forward to hearing from you!
Special Report

ASEF 10th Anniversary

Multimedia Exhibition
ASEF, 10 Years and Beyond
13 April 2007
Singapore

The ASEF celebratory programme on 13 April was accompanied by a day-long exhibition reflecting ASEF's past 10 years, including a vision of ASEF's future.

Entitled “ASEF, 10 Years and Beyond”, the exhibition was based on and built along ASEF's eight major thematic areas:
1. Intercultural Dialogue
2. Youth
3. Education and Academic Cooperation,
4. Arts Development, Artist Practices and Cultural Policy
5. Media and Society
6. International Relations
7. Environment and Sustainable Development and

Furthermore, ASEF presented its commemorative publication “10 Years of ASEF. Voices from Asia and Europe.” This book is a special compilation of short, personal narratives by 90 selected partners and alumni from Asia and Europe. The individual accounts given by the narrators show how they came to be involved with, and have been personally and professionally enriched by, ASEF's programmes and activities. Congratulatory messages were sent from statesmen of both regions, including former Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, former French President Jacques Chirac, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and others.
Panel on Asia-Europe Dialogue

**Responsible Societies: Are Asia and Europe Getting it Right?**

**13 April 2007**

**Singapore**

The two-and-a-half hour panel on the notion of responsibility was crafted to exemplify ten years of experience in Asia-Europe dialogue and partnership-building through intellectual exchange.

In a talk-show format, the discussion panel brought together six personalities from Asia and Europe to reflect on three aspects of social responsibility: (1) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); (2) media accountability and global reporting; and (3) the relative responsibilities of religion and state in society.

Approximately 90 participants attended the panel, including ambassadors and diplomats from ASEM countries, researchers, NGO activists, leaders of religious organisations, journalists, students, and business leaders. Members of the audience challenged the panel’s views on how business groups, journalists, and religious organisations could be accountable to society. After heated debate, the panel concluded that approaches by different groups (particularly different religions) might be different but certain common values remain the bedrock of our societies.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Tom Hardiman, ASEF Governor for Ireland, and the distinguished panelists were: Mr. Christian Koenig (France), Director, ESSEC Asian Centre in Singapore; Ms. Claire Chiang (Singapore), President, Singapore Compact; Mr. Endi Bayuni (Indonesia), Chief Editor, The Jakarta Post; Ms. Fareena Alam (UK), Editor, Q-News Magazine; Ven. Dr. K. Gunaratna (Singapore), Mahakaruna Buddhist Society; and Mr. Peter Schier (Germany), Representative to Malaysia, Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org

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Culture@Xperiments

**12 March – 13 April 2007**

**Online**

ASEF invited five pairs (each combined of one Asian and one European artist) of ASEF alumni to create a collaborative online intercultural and interactive art work: Culture@Xperiments.

Based on the concept of the popular “Photoshop Tennis” each pair created a collaborative online artwork entitled “Embracing Diversity, Bridging Peoples, Shaping Partnerships” through a blog specially designed for this project. The evolution of the final piece was documented in this blog through regular entries over the course of three weeks. All discussions between teammates were done online through this medium so that visitors would have a voyeuristic view of the thought processes behind the aesthetic decisions made in the creation of these masterpieces. Visitors were also encouraged to comment on the works in progress.

The five pieces of works were showcased in an exhibition at the ASEF premises on the ASEF 10th Anniversary celebration day, as well as in an online exhibition on the project’s blog: www.asef.org/culturexperiments
Launch of the DEEP
13 April 2007
Singapore

DEEP was formally launched on 13 April 2007, as a key event organised on the occasion of the ASEF’s 10th anniversary.

DEEP was made possible with the generous support of the Japanese Government, represented at the launch by Deputy Head of Mission and Minister Mr. Hiroaki Isobe of the Embassy of Japan and former ASEF Governor for Japan, Ambassador Koji Watanabe.

Ambassador Wonil Cho opened the DEEP launch event which was attended by around 60 guests. Together with representatives from the diplomatic community in Singapore, the DEEP launch was attended by representatives of Singapore higher education institutions, including the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and the Singapore Institute of Management, and students from local secondary schools.

The DEEP exhibition, featuring computer terminals from which guests could browse and navigate the web portal, was staged for the entire afternoon of 13 April and was frequented by more than 50 visitors, some of whom also took part in the other ASEF commemorative activities.

ASEF received positive and enthusiastic response about the portal from guests, as well as encouragement to continue the active work of enriching the extensive database.

DEEP partners (namely: the International Association of Universities, the Academic Co-operation Association and Sequence Design International) expressed their commitment to work in partnership with ASEF to move forward with this pioneering effort.
With a firm belief in education as the key to the development of the individual and the continued progress of society at large, ASEF programmes in the field of education and academic co-operation emphasise the benefits of multilateral Asia-Europe network and relationship.

ASEF functions as the secretariat of the ASEM Education Hub (AEH), a multi-dimensional framework that aims to strengthen collaborations among institutions of higher learning and other educational institutions. Activities include the Asia-Europe Higher Education Networks, which stimulate exchange and co-operation among centres of excellence in specific fields and the Database on Educational Exchange Programmes (DEEP), a web-based platform that captures and publicises information on educational exchange opportunities within ASEM countries.

To date, the thematic networks created include Environmental Studies and Lifelong Learning. New networks on Intellectual Property and Migration are being planned. The European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network was created in 2005 to fortify existing centres and networks of European studies in Asia, and to create synergies between Asian and European centres in this field. Since 2002, ASEF also runs the Asia-Europe Workshop Series Programme in partnership with the European Alliance of Asian Studies, which aims at fostering academic co-operation between both regions. ASEF also publishes the Asia Europe Journal (AEJ) quarterly.

The following pages contain details of these activities that took place from October 2006 to March 2007.

Partners for DEEP met in Singapore on 11 April 2007 to evaluate the first phase of the online portal’s development and implementation and outline a strategy for its enhancement and sustainability.

Hosted by ASEF and the ASEM Education Hub Secretariat, representatives from DEEP’s partners, the International Association of Universities, the Academic Co-operation Association and Sequence Design International, attended the session.

The Meeting concluded, after very fruitful discussions and exchange of views, with the preparation of an Evaluation Report that will serve as a crucial reference for the improvement of the DEEP Portal and the adoption of a Strategy Paper and Roadmap that will form the basis for the implementation of the second phase of DEEP, as well as its future maintenance and upgrading.
Database on Education Exchange Programmes (DEEP)

The Database on Education Exchange Programmes (DEEP) is ASEM’s comprehensive online portal on universities, student exchanges and scholarships in Asia and Europe.

DEEP aims to provide general information and to promote greater awareness of study opportunities and encourage mobility within ASEM’s academic community. The availability of such information through the web will create better awareness among university students in Asia and Europe and place them in a better position to make the necessary assessment of possible benefits of studying in the ASEM countries.

Built for quick and easy navigation, DEEP is a useful tool for current and prospective university students searching for schools, courses, exchange programmes and financial aid. The database is constantly enriched with the latest information from official education agencies, higher education organisations and the universities themselves.

Visit DEEP at www.deep.asef.org

DEEP helps users to:
- select from an ever-expanding list of universities from the ASEM countries, organised by country and by field of study;
- locate scholarships and exchange programmes available from user’s country of origin and preferred country of destination;
- identify official agencies assisting foreign students;
- obtain a snapshot of Asian and European education systems, entry requirements and credit recognition procedures;
- exchange experiences of studying in Asia and Europe.
ASEF organised the ASEM Education Hub’s 1st Advisory Committee Meeting in Singapore from the 14th to the 15th December 2006.

The ASEM Education Hub is a multi-dimensional platform for co-operation among universities, higher education institutions and academic networks in the ASEM countries. Its Advisory Committee, composed of a selected number of experts and practitioners, acts both as an Asia-Europe higher education co-operation observatory and a think-tank providing strategic recommendations for the ASEM Education Hub’s further development. The Committee met for the first time in Singapore, with the aim to develop its roadmap for the Hub’s activities.

After fruitful brainstorming sessions, the Meeting concluded with two key outcomes: 1) a conclusive document exploring the "Role of Higher Education Networks and Organisations for (Higher Education) Regional Integration" and 2) a set of Recommendations on the objectives and activities to be undertaken under the different initiatives composing the ASEM Education Hub in 2007.

European Studies in Asia (ESiA)

ESiA is an initiative launched by ASEF in 2005 to stimulate European studies in Asia by strengthening interaction between existing networks in Asia as well as creating synergies between European study centres in both Asia and Europe.

It is an inter-disciplinary and open platform that embraces any institution in Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) countries offering European studies research and networking.

ESiA co-organised with the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), University of Canterbury, and is guided by an advisory group comprising of 13 academics from prominent European studies institutes in Asia and Europe.

For more information, please contact Ms. Ira Martina Drupady at ira.martina@asef.org.

A website and an electronic newsletter are already available and widely used by professionals, scholars and students.

Visit www.esia.asef.org
Hosted by the Hong Kong Baptist University, the meeting marked the culmination of ESiA’s first phase, drawing the participation of 32 prominent academics representing 24 European studies institutions and networks throughout Asia and Europe, including ASEF’s Board Governor for Japan, Ambassador Takayuki Kimura, in his capacity as Director-General of the European Union Institute in Japan (EUIJ/Tokyo). Other newcomers included academics from Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Vietnam, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland and Spain.

It was the first ESiA meeting to attract such a diverse audience and was thus a good opportunity to disseminate and discuss the preliminary findings of ESiA’s transnational pilot project “EU through the Eyes of Asia: A Comparative Study of Public, Elite and Media Perceptions of the EU in South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Thailand and China” which is going into its second year.

The presentation generated much positive feedback from participants and also spurred discussions of other possible spin-off projects. In particular, a strong interest was expressed to extend the study to other countries in Southeast Asia. Thus, it set the tone for the important discussion that followed on a critical evaluation of ESiA in the context of launching a new phase of activities and partnerships based on identified strengths.

The next ESiA meeting titled “Workshop on the Future of European Studies in Asia” will be held in Manila, the Philippines, on 5-7 December 2007. The event will be a partnership between ASEF, NCRE, University of Warsaw (Poland) and Ateneo de Manila University (the Philippines) as the local host.

AASEF and the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) held “The EU through the Eyes of the Asian Media” Workshop and 2nd European Studies in Asia Advisory Group Meeting in Hong Kong, China on 11-13 December 2006.

A ASEF organised a one-day Preparatory Meeting on 13 March in Singapore to plan ESiA’s upcoming workshop in Manila, the Philippines.

The event was a continuation of initial discussions during the previous ESiA meeting in Hong Kong in December 2006 (please see the previous article).

Following that, ASEF and the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) co-organised a three-day methodology workshop from 14-16 March at which researchers involved in the current phase of the “EU through the Eyes of Asia” project were trained to conduct and analysis elite interviews in the five Asian countries included in this study (China, Korea, Japan, Singapore and Thailand).

The German television Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF), filmed the workshop in a special feature on the perceptions of the European Union in Asia, commemorating 50 years of the Treaty of Rome.

These events were attended by representatives of ASEF’s Intellectual Exchange and People-to-People Exchange Departments, NCRE, and Ateneo de Manila University (the Philippines), as well as researchers from Fudan University and Hong Kong Baptist University (China), Korea University, Keio University (Japan), National University of Singapore, and Chulalongkorn University (Thailand).
Eighty teachers and educators from 28 ASEM partner countries participated at the conference under the theme “Building an Asia-Europe Online Network for Secondary and High Schools”.

The event was also an occasion to enable ASEF to reward success stories (well-executed online collaborative projects) developed since the last conference in Beijing, China and to encourage the establishment of new projects. During the conference, the AEC Awards were conferred to three Project Groups, namely “Cultural Kaleidoscope 2006”, “Local Traditions and Ceremonies”, and “Mastering Media” for their efforts in producing outstanding online learning platforms or applications under the AEC framework. Each Award consists of a cash grant of Euro 2,000 to be used either to further develop the AEC Project or to develop a new project. The Excellence Awards were also conferred to the three other shortlisted Project Groups, namely, “Eco-Cultural Tourism”, “Foodfest@VirtualHomestay” and “The World in a Book 2005”.

At the end of the discussion, 25 new AEC projects covering various topics and themes and potentially involving about 55 schools from 28 countries were developed.

The conference was co-organised with the Gymnasium of Livadia with the support of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia, and the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Visit AEC-NET at www.aec.asef.org
The project brought together 28 young activists and volunteers, coming from various youth organisations in ASEM countries, with an interest in becoming trainers and facilitators for running non-formal education activities.

The aim is capacity-building and raising self-confidence of the participants as future trainers by providing them with the basic skills and knowledge on training essentials.

It was co-organised by ASEF, the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations and the International Workcamp Organization (IWO).

The programme succeeded to let the group explore the topic of non-formal education and intercultural learning from the perspectives of Asia-Europe, and thus become a stable starting point to eventually create an Asia-Europe pool of trainers, as well as to deepen Asia-Europe youth co-operation.

For more information, please contact Ms. Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org

Each volume is intended to follow one major subject such as security, historical experiences, cultural perceptions, civic rights, gender issues, regional integration, development, ethnic minorities or other areas of bi-regional interest.

Since 2003, the quarterly academic periodical has strived to set the standard for active debate. It has been an academic platform for more than 180 authors from Asia and Europe – among them not only senior statesmen such as Lee Kuan Yew, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Rodolfo Severino and Pascal Lamy, prominent scholars such as Emil Kirchner, Pan Guang and Park Sung-Hoon, but also young, ambitious academics from both regions. With input from leading academics and its incisive analysis of current socio-political issues, the Journal has served continuously as a facilitator in bridging civil societies and policy makers in and between Asia and Europe.

Please go to “New Publications” section for the table of content for The Journal’s latest edition. For further information, please contact Ms. Leonie Schneider at asiaeuropejournal@asef.org

Asia Europe Journal is devoted to publish interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities. Fields of interest cover various aspects of bilateral relationships, comparative studies, Asian area studies from an European perspective or European studies from an Asian viewpoint.

Visit the AEJ website at www.aej.asef.org
Commentary

A Case for Higher Education Co-operation between Asia and Europe Intercultural Dialogue

ASEM Education Hub Secretariat

Higher education co-operation has always been one of the priorities of the ASEM process. Today more than ever, it appears of crucial strategic importance for both Asia and Europe. The ASEM Education Hub aims to respond to the challenge.

Internationalisation is especially relevant in the ASEM context. The Bologna process, certainly one of the major higher education initiatives taken worldwide in the past years, is greatly contributing to facilitate vigorous exchanges among European universities. Subsequently, this has helped transform Europe into a main and attractive tertiary education landscape. In Asia, rapidly booming economies, and increasingly important intra-regional processes are contributing to develop a robust and appealing higher education pole. An obvious result of those combined trends is reflected in the last International Association of Universities (IAU) survey on Internationalisation of Higher Education, where Europe and Asia respectively ranked first and second in the top geographical priorities of internationalisation efforts.

However, educational co-operation between Asia and Europe is presently essentially limited to occasional projects and bilateral collaboration between institutions. Given the growth and dynamism of the two regions, they are and will continue to be natural partners in advancing the quality and reach of higher education and mobility of the academic community in the ASEM partner-countries.

Enhanced co-operation in higher education opens promising opportunities for mutual benefits, in light of Asia and Europe’s emergence as crucial higher education regions. The ASEM Education Hub (AEH) has been developed as a necessary platform to facilitate and support multilateral exchanges between Asia and Europe higher education sectors.

The AEH involves several initiatives, co-ordinated through a Secretariat supported by ASEF. Its Advisory Committee is a forum for discussion between the main networks and organisations acting as both an observatory and a think-tank for ASEM higher education co-operation. Furthermore, Thematic Networks have been initiated and are supported, grouping universities from engaged in staff and student exchanges or joint teaching and research efforts, in fields as diverse as life long learning, peace and conflict studies, or environmental science. Greater co-operation is fostered, at the highest level of university management, through the Asia-Europe Colloquy series.

Finally, mobility is a fundamental aspect of internationalisation. Under the ASEM Education Hub, with the support of three key partners (the International Association of Universities, the Academic Co-operation Association and Sequence Design International), ASEF developed and maintained the Database on Education Exchange Programmes (DEEP), an online portal that provides students with comprehensive information on education opportunities in ASEM countries.

The ASEM Education Hub aims to be a central point for higher education co-operation among ASEM partners. It will continue to welcome and support aligned initiatives and to engage more stakeholders, as fully developed co-operation between the higher education sectors of both regions will contribute to bringing Asian and European societies closer.
The 5th Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE), under the theme of “Job Shadowing”, was held from the 12th to the 26th October, across 15 ASEM countries, including eight from Asia and seven from Europe.

The 5th Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE), under the theme of Asia-Europe Trainings for Voluntary Work on Intercultural Understanding was held in two different phases, as two interlinked activities.

The Introductory Training on 7-12 October 2006, and the Evaluation Training on 27 October – 1 November 2006, with individual international internships experiences of the participants in between. The two trainings were held in Paris (France), and were co-organised by ASEF and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), bringing together 15 participants with various profiles and experiences in the field of youth activities from 11 ASEM partner countries.

Through these two trainings for voluntary work, emphasis was given to the aspect of networking between youth organisations in Asia and Europe, in order to allow knowledge-transfer between the two regions, as well as providing the participants with the tools and methodologies to explore and reflect on the complexity of cultural diversity in the international environment.

During these two projects, a list of detailed recommendations for future Asia-Europe exchange projects between volunteer organisations were collected. It will serve as a basis for future proposals of projects of the kind. Additionally, key documents on voluntary service and intercultural learning were introduced in order to change organisational practices and several bilateral agreements have been concluded among Asian and European organisations involved for future projects.

Further AEYVE projects are planned in the coming years combining a thematic focus with the general feature of an exchange on a cultural and organisational level.

During a period of two weeks, 15 young people from Asia and Europe had the opportunity to stay in the office of a host organisation and to subsequently visit its partners in other parts of the host country in order to better understand the practices of their hosts. The participants had the opportunity to have an intense information exchange with the youth workers and active members of the host organisations. Some participants were also invited to join seminars and statutory meetings of the hosts, which were taking place during the time of their job shadowing period.

Through the AEYVE programme, the participants were granted a possibility to encounter, confront and overcome the differences in the way of reasoning, communicating, planning, working and achieving goals on two levels: working in the office of their partner organisation and getting a training course.

The Job Shadowing allowed youth workers and representatives of voluntary organisations to acquire the skills for organising trans-national projects by working in a partner organisation for a limited period of time. By offering a great learning experience in an organisation in another country, the AEYVE also highly contributed to the development of inter-organisational relations and co-operation by fostering the human resource exchange to pass experience and good practice.

For more information, please contact Ms. Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org
The conference started with a keynote speech by Mr. Serge Abou, Head of Delegation of the European Commission in China who spoke about the political and institutional dimension of the European regional integration.

This part was followed by five sessions discussing the following issues in context:

- The 2005 East Asian Summit and the rapid development of East Asian co-operation;
- The European Union Enlargement since May 2005, its subsequent implications and the increasing importance of European integration, paralleled by the process of East Asian Community building in Asia;
- ASEM and other mechanisms with regard to the ASEM enlargement since October 2005, including the ASEM VI Summit held in September in Helsinki; and,
- Functional co-operation in economic matters (trade, investment, monetary co-operation), as well as, in the fields of security and education.

The outcomes from the meeting will be made available to public in the form of digital video disc (DVD) and an accompanying booklet, co-developed by ASEF and UNIJAPAN. This publication, which is targeted for completion in October 2007, will contain a documentary film on the meeting, including the mini-pitching session by the students, the discussions that ensued and interviews conducted with the students and resource persons.

For more information, please contact Mr. David Ocon at david.ocon@asef.org.
ASEF and Casa Asia, in co-operation with the Government of Navarra, organised the 1st Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue, held in Pamplona and Javier, Navarra, Spain, from the 19 to 23 November 2006. The meeting was convened as the 5th ASEM Youth Dialogue.

Forty-four youth representatives of churches, faiths and youth religious organisations and networks from 26 ASEM countries, together with experts in inter-religious dialogue, exchanged views and experiences based on their respective religions and spiritual traditions. This multi-religious and future-oriented conference undertook a critical inventory of initiatives to expand Asia-Europe youth co-operation in interfaith dialogue and brainstormed on new ways to strengthen youth interfaith co-operation under the ASEM framework.

After a fruitful exchange of views, participants reached a consensus that is reflected on the ‘JavierDeclaration’, which was approved with a standing ovation on 22 November 2006. The Declaration aims to seek support for the further development of closer youth interfaith co-operation between Asia and Europe, and was submitted together with a Report for the consideration of the ASEM Governments.

The Fourth Asia Europe Dance Forum – Pointe to Point focused on new inspirations and discoveries between two artistic disciplines: dance and visual arts.

Between July and September 2006, four prominent and accomplished visual artists and four young choreographers exchanged ideas about their respective artistic practices through studio visits in Lisbon, Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, Baguio City and Paris. In November, 20 contemporary dancers from Asia and Europe joined the visual artists and choreographer in an 8-day workshop in Warsaw. The four choreographers shared their encounter with the visual artists with the dancers and created each artistic work inspired by the visual art experiences.

ASEF partnered with Cinema Art Foundation, Egurolla Dance Studio and Fabryka to realise this project, with extra support from the City of Warsaw. Highlights of the project will be featured in a publication and video produced by ASEF. For more information, please contact Ms. Katelijn Verstraete at katelijn.verstraete@asef.org.

“I was happy to meet the people. For me the meeting was the most important, to talk, to discuss, to exchange information... This project makes me want to organise more exchange, it gave me a lot of appreciation, inspiration and for sure it opened my mind a lot.”

Manon Avermaete (Belgium)

“I would say I have benefited very much from Pointe to Point... It is an eye opener for me. The experience of this project with dancers and choreographers from different countries in the world will never be forgotten. When it comes to having connections, I would say I was able to gain and got to know a lot of interesting dancers who have their own style and identity in the contemporary dance world. Even though we are from different parts of the world, we all know we are connected to each other through our dancing...”

Ava Maureen Villanueva (Philippines)
The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) held its 4th roundtable discussion in Brussels, Belgium, on 30 November – 1 December 2006. Entitled “Combine or Combust! Cooperating on Chemicals and Hazardous Substances Management”, the roundtable, assembled 36 specially invited participants from ASEM countries.

The project aimed to contribute to the current global policy dialogue on chemicals management by promoting transparency, capacity building and knowledge transfer between Asia and Europe. More specifically, the meeting proposed an overall practical framework for future stronger Asia-Europe co-operation in chemicals management. It brought together professionals from the government, industry, civil society and research sectors.

The meeting gathered, amongst others, former Swedish Ambassador for the Environment Ms. Viveka Bohn and Mr. Rajendra Shende of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Ozone Unit. Held during the second reading of the new European Commission’s regulation of Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH), there was a genuine sense of anticipation throughout the duration of the roundtable as participants constantly updated themselves on REACH’s development. The roundtable was also timely in light of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Asia consultation round scheduled for May 2007.

For more information, please visit http://env.asef.org or contact Mr. Rahiman Abdullah at env@asef.org.

Is Europe really under-represented in the Southeast Asian economy? A seminar at ASEF’s premises in Singapore engaged this question and demonstrated the contrary with the expertise of Dr David Hoyrup and Prof Wong Tai Chee, researchers at the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC, Bangkok) and the National Institute of Education (NIE, Singapore) respectively.

While studies on American and Japanese business activities in Southeast Asia are readily available, material on the European sector are few and far between. The majority of existing studies reflect the political relationship between Southeast Asia and Europe, are based on bilateral case studies or deal generally with foreign direct investment in the region by each European country without giving specific attention to European business with a region-wide perspective. To fill this gap, IRASEC launched a regional study in 2005 with the objective of mapping out strategic information on European businesses in the ten ASEAN countries.

Presenting the results of this landmark study, this roundtable-style seminar gathered ASEM diplomats, business analysts, academics and students. Notably, the event also drew the attention of two radio stations, Mediacorp 938LIVE and Radio Singapore International (RSI). The RSI article and webcast can be found online: http://www.rsi.sg/english/perspective/view/20061230132224/1.html
The 10th ASEF Talks on the Hill Meeting under the Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Programme convened from 28 to 30 January at ASEF. Entitled “(in)Secure Societies: Redefining Civil Liberties in a changing Security Environment,” the meeting brought together a group of 14 prominent individuals from Asia and Europe.

The Talks on the Hill meeting series adopts a closed-door, intensive brainstorming meeting format, run on a set of carefully constructed ground rules aimed at encouraging open and frank discussion. More importantly, this meeting series brings together a group of participants who each come from different professional backgrounds, in order to promote dialogue and encourage policy recommendations that are inclusive of the concerns of the various sectors of societies.

This 10th Talks on the Hill Meeting was organised around the debate between the balance that needs to be struck between human rights and the increased security needs. Some of the main points that were discussed included:

- Has the heightened concern over terrorism and national security affected the relationship among the executive, legislative and judicial branches?
- Have ASEM countries taken adequate care to ensure that individuals whose rights have been violated in the course of counter-terrorist measures have regular, concrete, institutionalised access to remedies?
- Is the current wave of tightened national security policy, law and practice redefining the relative spheres of private and public life?

The final report, prepared in co-operation with the participants will be distributed to relevant institutions.

For more information, please visit http://civdialogue.asef.org or contact Ms. Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.

The 18th Asia-Europe Lecture Tour, entitled “Mobility, Diversity and Social Cohesion: challenges and opportunities in Asia and Europe”, was organised in six cities in Asia from the 26 February to 9 March.

The speaker, Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights, spoke on how migration for both humanitarian and economic reasons was accelerating the pace of demographic change in various countries. This was tied into how governments could better manage these changes, particularly with a focus on building social cohesion between new migrants and the existing populations. Of particular concern, were the differences that sometimes existed between the rights that new migrants had in society vis-à-vis the rest of the population. This lecture also included an analysis of policies tailored towards illegal and temporary migrants.

In the various cities, the lectures were hosted by: ASEF (Singapore), Institute of Occidental Studies (Kuala Lumpur), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bangkok), Cambodia Human Rights Committee (Phnom Penh), Lembaga Indonesia Perancis (Yogyakarta) and Ateneo University de Davao (Mindanao).

For the lecture in Singapore, the Asia-Europe Foundation organised a dinner talk with an audience of selected individuals from various research and media institutions who had a focus on this subject. This format allowed for greater interaction and engagement between the audience members and the speaker. Furthermore, it was seen as a good start to the Asian lecture tour as it gave the speaker an insight into many of the priorities that were relevant to this region, as she embarked on her travels to the other countries.

For more information, please visit http://civdialogue.asef.org or contact Ms. Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.
ASEF organised the 20th Lecture Tour of our Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Programme in February and March of this year. In order to commemorate the 20th Lecture Tour in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of ASEF, this project was organised with two eminent figures in European and Asian institutions, travelling and delivering their presentations in tandem.

The lecture, entitled “Lessons and Reflections on Regionalisation in Asia and Europe: Asian & European Perspectives,” was organised with Ambassador Rodolfo Severino, former Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Ambassador Bernhard Zepter, former Deputy Secretary-General of the European Commission – with each lecturer speaking from his respective regional perspective.

In the various countries, the lectures were hosted by European Policy Centre (Brussels), Asia Centre (Paris), Chester Beatty Library (Dublin), Chatham House (London), German Council on Foreign Relations (Berlin), Warsaw University, Dutch Parliament (The Hague), Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Jakarta), China Institute of International Studies (Beijing), Asian Institute of Management (Manila) and Japan Institute of International Affairs (Tokyo). In Singapore, the lecture was organised on 12 March at the Asia-Europe Foundation. Chaired by Ambassador Boguslaw Majewski, ASEF’s Board Governor for Poland, it was well attended by members of the diplomatic corps as well as academics.

For more information, please visit http://civdialogue.asef.org or contact Ms. Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.

Over 50 young parliamentarians from more than 25 ASEM countries and the European Parliament gathered in The Hague, The Netherlands, at the 6th Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting to exchange views and perspectives on the theme “Towards an Asia-Europe Partnership”.

This AEYPM was co-organised by ASEF, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Institute for Asian Studies. It was hosted by the Netherlands House of Representatives.

Five successful AEYPM meetings have been held in the Philippines, Portugal, Indonesia, Italy and China respectively. The AEYPM meetings undertake to foster high-level exchange of ideas and intensive networking between young Parliamentarians from Asia and Europe. Topics discussed included migration and community building, education and knowledge-based societies, security issues and civil liberties.

The AEYPM6 offered the opportunity to compare best practices so as to create new benchmarks in an evolving society in the 21st century. The participants discussed the shifting paradigms in Asia-Europe relations and were challenged to change perceptions and gain new perspectives. The event also had the aim to stretch dialogue towards deliverable goals applicable in a national and regional setting. Not only were issues of importance to Asia and Europe debated, but the outcomes translated into actual steps towards a closer Asian-European partnership in a global context.

For more information, please visit http://www.asef.org/dir/AEYPM6 or contact Ms. Soh Lai Yee at laiyee@asef.org.
ASEF organised the lecture of Prof Kevin Boyle, Head of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex (UK) as the inaugural lecture of the ASEF Democratisation and Justice Series. Prof. Boyle spoke about the linkages between human rights protection and other goals of international co-operation including development, security, the environment and democracy. The lecture addressed the issue of future policies for human betterment and even survival must reflect the complexity of the challenges that face a globalised and increasingly unequal world. It was attended by 30 participants from the academy, officials from ASEM embassies as well as think tanks and research institutes representatives.

This topic was apt considering that the human rights dialogue in Asia is reaching its peak with the drafting of the ASEAN Charter, which will be discussed and finalised, most likely in Singapore, at the end of 2007. The lecture’s discussant, Dr Cherian George, Deputy Head, Journalism Programme, Nanyang Technological University, highlighted the inter-relatedness of freedom of expression to other rights.

For more information, please contact Ms. Natalia Figge at natalia@asef.org.

The panel included leading experts such as Dr. Joergen Fenhann from UNEP-Risoe Laboratory (lead author of the International Panel on Climate Change Working Group III) and Prof. Pan Jiahua of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CAAS).

Following presentations of their views on the post-2012 Global Climate Change policy, the panelists were engaged in a dynamic exchange with the public; discussing and outlining the stakes and central interests surrounding the end of the Kyoto Protocol’s implementation in 2012. This panel built on the ENVforum’s work on climate change strategies by encouraging a multi-stakeholder discussion in order to enrich and animate the debate on climate change strategies. It addressed issues including:

• the cost and benefits of a global climate policy;
• the roles of governments and societies in global climate policy; and,
• the experiences of stakeholders with the CDM.

The panel was a side event to the ASEM Environment Ministerial held in Copenhagen on 24-26 April. For more information, please visit http://env.asef.org or contact Mr. Rahiman Abdullah at env@asef.org.
To order a copy for any of the publications below, please email info@asef.org.

**Human Rights and Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Minorities**  
*ISBN: 981-05-7171-2*  
*Edited by Bertrand Fort & Peter Ryan*

The book addresses key issues surrounding minority group rights across the ASEM countries. Comparisons made throughout Asia and Europe provide examples of legislation and practices in protecting minorities, forming the basis for policy recommendations to ASEM governments. The publication arises from the 7th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights, which was the first meeting to be held in a new ASEM country, in Hungary on 22-23 February 2006. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and ASEF are the three co-organisers and founders of this series; the Central European University hosted the event in Budapest.

**A Gender Agenda: Asia-Europe Dialogue 3 – Economic Empowerment for Gender Equality**  
*ISBN: 981-05-6135-0*  
*Edited by Chia Siow Yue*

The book presents the findings of a collaborative project between East Asian and European institutions and researchers, with the objective of promoting an Asia-Europe mutual understanding on the issue of gender equality. The publication focuses on women’s economic empowerment, and in particular entrepreneurship development, which is presented in the findings of micro-case studies over the two regions. The publication is a result of the 3rd Asia-Europe Dialogue on the Gender Agenda which was held in Manila on 8-10 October 2005. The meeting was organised by the Japan Centre for International Exchange and ASEF, with the co-operation of the Asian Institute of Management of the Philippines.

**Third Year of Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue 2005/2006**  
*ISBN: 978-981-05-7629-5*  
*Edited by Bertrand Fort & Peter Ryan*

ASEF launched its Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue programme in October 2003 with the focus of bringing leaders of opinion from civil society and government representatives together in order to stem an apparent “rising tide” of intolerance and distrust, and promote unity in diversity. This publication is a reflection of the various meetings, conversations, dialogues, and even arguments and confrontations that have been part of the dialogue between Asia and Europe throughout the 2005/2006 period. It notably features reports on the 7th to 9th Talks on the Hill, think-tank-style meetings on highly sensitive issues, and the 13th to 18th Lecture Tours that were hosted in the various major cities in Asia and Europe. For more information about ASEF’s Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue programme, please visit http://civdialogue.asef.org.
To order a copy for any of the publications below, please email info@asef.org.

**Asia Europe Journal**

**ISSN:** 1610-2932

*Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Albrecht Rothacher*

- Lee Hsien Loong – Asia Transformed
- Benita Ferrero-Waldner – Common experiences, common hopes and engagement in our common interest
- Takeshi Yagi – “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue and Japan’s policy toward Central Asia
- Rui Pereira – The Helsinki Summit and the Future Course of ASEM
- Howard Loewen – East Asia and Europe – Partners in Global Politics?
- Jörn Dosch – The Impact of EU-Enlargement on Relations between Europe and East Asia
- Hungda Su – Politics of Differentiation: Enhanced Cooperation in the EU and the Pathfinder in APEC
- Weiqing Song – Regionalisation, Inter-regional Cooperation and Global Governance
- Cesar de Prado Yepes – Regionalisation of Higher Education Services in Europe and in East Asia
- Eddy Y. L. Chang – The “daiku” Phenomenon. Social and Cultural Influences of “Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony” in Japan
- Antal Szabo, Anna Petrosyan – Small and medium-sized enterprises in the Caucasian Countries in Transition

**Project Report**

**Asia-Europe Environment Forum Policy Brief on Chemicals and Hazardous Substances Management**

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum has released its policy brief on chemicals and hazardous substances management in May 2007. This policy brief is based on the key issues that emerged from the discussions of the 4th roundtable that was held in Brussels, Belgium on 30 November – 1 December 2006.

This policy brief highlighted key points on aspects of co-operation between Asia and Europe in chemicals and hazardous substances management. The policy brief was positively received at the UN’s Asia consultation on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) last May, in Bangkok, Thailand.

It will be useful to policy makers, journalists and actors involved in this issue. For more information on the ENVforum, please visit http://env.asef.org. To order a copy of the report, please contact env@asef.org.
In the news

For more articles and clippings on ASEF and its activities, please visit: http://www.asef.org/dir/InTheNews
Visits to ASEF

1. Mr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Distinguished Visitor & Member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU), 5 February 2007.
2. Ambassador Joop Scheffers, Director of the Asia and Oceania Department, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 6 February 2007.
5. Mr. Pierre Rousselin, Deputy Managing Director (International Affairs), Le Figaro, 7 March 2007.
7. Mr. Michael Stewart from Dundalk Institute of Technology, Ireland, 26 March 2007
8. Mr. Eamonn Conway from the Centre for Culture, Technology & Values; Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland, 29 March 2007

Governor News

- Ambassador Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar of India was appointed governor.
- Ambassador Dainiis Petras Kamaitis of Lithuania was appointed governor.
- Mr. Erland Ringborg of Sweden was succeeded by Ambassador Olof Ehrenkrona.
- Ambassador Nguyen Dang Quang of Vietnam was succeeded by Mr. Luong Quoc Hoy.
Staff News

Outgoing Staff:
- Mr. Chin Hock Seng, Singapore (Director, Public Affairs)
- Ms. Jessica Yom, Korea (Assistant Director, Public Affairs)
- Ms. Jenny Fong, Singapore (Accounts Manager, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Vernetta Belarmino, Philippines (Project Executive, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Zhang Jia Hui, Singapore (Admin Assistant, Admin and Finance)
- Mr. Peter Sim, Singapore (Facility Officer, Admin and Finance)
- Mr. Alfredo Garcia Gil, Spain (Intern, People-to-People Exchange)
- Ms. Bernise Ang, Singapore (Intern, People-to-People Exchange)
- Mr. Hoy Pichravuth, Cambodia (Intern to Deputy Executive Director)

Incoming Staff:
- Mr. Sudesh K. Maniar, Singapore (Director, Public Affairs)
- Ms. Flaminia Lilli, Italy (Special Assistant to Executive Director)
- Mr. Alan Tan, Singapore (Accounts Manager, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Amelia Indradjaja, Indonesia (Admin Assistant, Admin and Finance)
- Mr. Zailani bin Johari, Singapore (Facility Officer, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Kate Elliott, United Kingdom (Intern, Intellectual Exchange)
- Ms. Natalie Sujono, Indonesia (Intern, Public Affairs)
- Mr. Jerome Pang, Singapore (Intern, Admin and Finance)

Others:

Preparatory meeting for 3rd ASEM Environment Ministers’ Meeting
6-7 March 2007
Jakarta, Indonesia

The preparatory meeting for the 3rd ASEM Environment Ministers’ meeting was organised by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the host of the upcoming Ministerial, the Danish Ministry of Environment. ASEF was represented by Ambassador Wonil Cho who intervened to highlight the activities of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum. He also advocated the inclusion of civil society and other stakeholders such as research and industry in environmental policymaking. Further, Ambassador Cho invited members of the delegations to the upcoming discussion panel that the Forum is organising as a side event to the upcoming Ministerial.

Sudesh Maniar, ASEF Director of Public Affairs since May 2007, is a career diplomat from Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), which he joined in 1997 from the Monetary Authority of Singapore. During his career in MFA, Sudesh has served in the International Organisations Directorate, as well as the International Economics Directorate where he was appointed Director in 2001. He oversaw Singapore’s participation in the WTO as well as APEC, and was involved in negotiations on several bilateral Free Trade Agreements. Sudesh was posted to Geneva from October 2002 to September 2005, where he was Deputy Permanent Representative covering the WTO including the Doha round of trade negotiations, as well as the UN. Prior to his secondment to ASEF, he was Director (Special Duties) for International Economics.

Sudesh graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree, specialising in Monetary Economics. He is married and has a daughter.

- Cultural Exchange
- Intellectual Exchange
- People-to-People Exchange
- Public Affairs
- Administration and Finance
Looking Ahead

- 23-25 May 2007
  SINGAPORE
  5th Asia-Europe Roundtable
  “Sustaining the Peace through Post-conflict Reconstruction”
  Partner: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
  Office for Regional Co-operation in Southeast Asia

- 25-31 May 2007
  MANILA, PHILIPPINES
  Asia-Europe Partnership in the Field of Trainings:
  “Asia-Europe Training for Trainers on Intercultural Learning”
  Partners: National Youth Commission of the Philippines,
  Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service
  (CCIVS), International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE)

- 26-27 May 2007
  HAMBURG, GERMANY
  4th Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar
  On the occasion of the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting 2007

- 2-10 June 2007
  GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
  I’mPULSE: “4th Asia-Europe Music Camp”
  Co-organised with the Clandestino Festival

- 14-15 June 2007
  MADRID, SPAIN
  ASEF Youth Partnerships:
  “Seminar on Vocational Training Related to Restoration of the
  Cultural Heritage and the Environment”
  In partnership with the Training Centre Santamarca (Madrid);
  supported by the Spanish Public Employment Service, Spanish
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the Embassy
  of the Philippines in Spain

- 17-18 June 2007
  NANJING, CHINA
  5th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium “Deepening Interfaith Dialogue for
  Peace and Development through the Media”
  In conjunction with the 3rd ASEM Interfaith Dialogue

- 30-31 August 2007
  HORNBÆK & COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
  ASEM Education Hub:
  “Advisory Board Meeting & Conference of the thematic network on Peace
  and Conflict Studies”
  In partnership with the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS)

- 31 Aug – 7 Sep 2007
  MADRID, SPAIN
  ASEF@10: “ASEF University, ASEFUAN and Beyond”
  Partners: ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and the
  Research Unit on International Security and Cooperation
  (UNISCI), Universidad Complutense de Madrid

ASEM Calendar

  TOKYO, JAPAN
  5th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism
  This Conference was a follow up of previous ASEM Conferences on Counter-
  Terrorism held in Beijing (2003), Berlin (2004), Semarang (2005) and
  Copenhagen (2006), aiming at strengthening the cooperation among ASEM
  partners by sharing experiences and information and exploring ways and
  means to enhance our Counter-Terrorism measures.

- 28-29 May 2007
  HAMBURG, GERMANY
  8th ASEM Foreign Minister’s Meeting
  ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, in addition to pursuing the ASEM dialogue under the first and third pillars (political dialogue, co-operation in other areas), is also responsible for the overall coordination of the ASEM process.

- 4-5 June 2007
  STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
  2nd ASEM HIV/AIDS Workshop
  The Workshop series highlights the need to co-operate and collaborate with neighbouring nations in Asia and Europe, as well as discuss HIV/AIDS as a part of a regional response to effectively confront the epidemic.

- 14-15 June 2007
  MADRID, SPAIN
  Employment Workshops Related to the Restoration of Cultural Heritage and the Environment
  The Initiative will be the first ASEM conference aimed at promoting the entry into the workforce of disadvantaged young people and adults, by training them on the handicrafts, trades and skills traditional in each region.

- 19-21 June 2007
  NANJING, CHINA
  3rd ASEM Interfaith Dialogue
  This event will be built upon the outcomes from the previous Interfaith Dialogues, first of which was held in Bali, Indonesia in 2005 and the second in Larnaca, Cyprus in 2006.

- 1 July 2007 (tbc)
  HANOI, VIETNAM
  1st ASEM Forum on Energy Security
  This is a concrete step to address the energy security concerns raised in the ASEM 6 Summit.

For the latest updates on ASEM activities, please visit www.aseminfoboard.org

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ASEF News is published by the Public Affairs Department, Asia-Europe Foundation