ASIA-EUROPE Emerging Photographers’ Forum 2009 KUALA LUMPUR
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'SELAMAT DATANG', a very warm welcome to our overseas guests to Malaysia. I am very pleased to be invited back to officiate the opening of this Asia-Europe Emerging Photographers’ Forum 2009, jointly hosted by the National Art Gallery Malaysia and the Asia-Europe Foundation.

I want to congratulate all the selected participating photographers and the facilitators from the European Union countries and Asia in this week long forum and exhibitions that is taking place at the National Art Gallery Malaysia and the Annexe Gallery, Central Market, Kuala Lumpur.

As a keen photographer myself, I truly understand the needs of photographers of today’s digital technology driven age where the exchanges of ideas, techniques, skills and networking among photographers of diverse nationalities and culture are of importance. The camera is just a tool, a means to document or represent the ideas and thoughts of the photographer behind this tool, to half achieve his or her visualised image or ‘digital information’ in today’s era. In addition, together with the other set of tools such as the photoshop or other image enhancing tools, one can further work on and enhance an image to one’s needs or fantasy.

I am very pleased to learn that many institutions such as the Goethe Institute Kuala Lumpur, Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, the Japan Advertising Photographers’ Association (APA), and corporate bodies such as the Nikon Malaysia, Epson Malaysia, the Annexe Gallery, Central Market, the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and the German Trade and Invest in Malaysia have jointly come forward to partner with the organisers of this forum in making it happen. I wish to thank you all for your generosity and commitment in improving the standards of the visual arts in this country of ours.

I would like to thank the staff of the Asia-Europe Foundation together with the National Art Gallery Malaysia and many individuals for putting their hearts and souls in bringing together an event of such importance to us.

I wish all the participants, facilitators and the people behind the organisation of this forum well and have a fruitful week.

Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim

Minister of Information, Communication and Culture
FOREWORD

On behalf of The Asia-Europe Foundation, a warm welcome to the Asia-Europe Emerging Photographers’ Forum 2009.

The Asia-Europe Foundation enables an exceptional environment and helps initiate collaborations for young artists through its cultural exchange programmes. This Emerging Photographers’ Forum creates a unique opportunity for twenty-three emerging photographers, who will be coached by expert photographers, lecturers and curators from Asia and Europe. This Forum also opens the field of Asian and European photography to the community of photographers, experts and enthusiasts in Malaysia.

The Forum explores the theme of “Creative Economies” and seeks to highlight the importance of the photography medium, in light of the current global financial crisis. The participants will show photographs from their own local culture to bring a positive perspective about the economy by portraying multiple models of sustainable and gift economies in Asia and Europe. The final exhibition of their works will also be presented in Hanoi during the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in May 2009 and to the public by the Goethe-Institut in Hanoi.

This year’s forum has been jointly co-organised with the kind support of our partners, the National Art Gallery Malaysia, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture, Goethe Institute Kuala Lumpur, Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur. The Asia-Europe Foundation also appreciates the sponsorship of Nikon Malaysia, Epson Malaysia, the Anexa Gallery Central Market, Japan Advertising Photographers Association (APA), the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and the German Trade and Invest in Malaysia.

This Forum seeks to promote professional growth and the building of friendship among participants, enhancing dialogue between Asia and Europe.

I wish all of the participants and resource persons a very enriching week in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Jean Anes

Director Cultural Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation
FOREWORD

/// National Art Gallery Malaysia

“Selamat Datang”, a very warm welcome to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is a great honour and pleasure for the National Art Gallery Malaysia to jointly organise and host this round of the Asia-Europe Emerging Photographers’ Forum 2009 in Kuala Lumpur together with the Asia-Europe Foundation and the many working partners that have come forward to lend a hand in making this forum possible at this difficult economic times.

The gallery has over the years, since her establishment in 1968, hosted many visual art forums and dialogues of different standings and subject matters that are of great interest and significance in contributing to the knowledge and improvement of the techniques and skills of visual artists in this country of ours.

The “CREATIVE ECONOMIES” of forum taking place from the 11th to 18th of May is a first for us as a gallery and the country to host 23 selected photographers from Asia and Europe and the 8 facilitators from the countries of Europe and Asia. It is through forums of such a kind, where there are exchanges across people of diverse culture, knowhow, and opportunities in networking among photographers in this age of the digital era, can flourish.

I am also made to understand that a body of works produced by an international field of participants from the last Asia-Europe Photographers’ Forum that took place in Dublin and Cork City in Ireland in the year 2007, will grace the walls of this gallery from the commencement of this forum.

Together with my colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, our Minister of Information, Communication and Culture in officiating the opening of this forum and the exhibition “SECURED AREA”. Datuk Seri, an ardent photographer himself truly understands and appreciate the need of such forums and the medium of photography, the efforts put in by the photographers behind the lens in producing these works.

Last but not least, a big thank you the Goethe Institute Kuala Lumpur, Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, the Japan Advertising Photographers’ Association (APA), Nikon Malaysia, Epson Malaysia, Annexe Gallery, Central Market and the joint organiser Asia-Europe Foundation and many individuals who have worked tirelessly in making this forum a reality today.

I wish you all forum participants a great success.

Dr. Mohamed Najih Ahmad Dawa

Director General National Art Gallery Malaysia
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of ASEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focussed on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations.

Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEF reports to a board of governors representing the ASEM partners. ASEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. Since 1997, the Foundation has initiated projects engaging 14,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. ASEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries. www.asef.org

ASEM (the Asia-Europe Meeting) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission. http://www.aseminfoboard.org
Housed in a 13,500 square meter specially designed building that blends traditional Malaysian architecture with contemporary lines, the National Art Gallery reflects the development of the rich and diverse artistic heritage of Malaysia. Established in August 1958 under the patronage of Malaysia’s first Prime Minister, Y.T.M Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the National art Gallery is one of the earliest established national art museum in South East Asia.

The National art Gallery showcases the best of Malaysian modern and contemporary art and host visiting international exhibitions.

www.artgallery.gov.my

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special legal entity to undertake international cultural exchange and was subsequently reorganized as an independent administrative institution in October 2003. The Japan Foundation consists of a head office in Tokyo, a branch office in Kyoto, two Japanese-language institutes in Urawa and Kansai, and 21 overseas offices in 20 countries.

The purpose of the Japan Foundation is: “To contribute to a better international environment, and to the maintenance and development of harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, through deepening other nations’ understanding of Japan, promoting better mutual understanding among nations, encouraging friendship and goodwill among the peoples of the world, and contributing to the world in culture and other fields through the efficient and comprehensive implementation of international cultural exchange activities.”

The Japan Foundation carries out its programs and activities in the following three major categories: arts and cultural exchange, Japanese-language education overseas, and Japanese studies and intellectual exchange.

PARTNERS

Goethe Institute Kuala Lumpur

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany’s cultural institution operational worldwide. It promotes the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. It also fosters knowledge about Germany by providing information on its culture, society and politics. With its network of Goethe-Instituts, Goethe Centres, cultural societies, reading rooms and exam and language learning centres it has played a central role in the cultural and educational policies of Germany for over 50 years.

Forum is supported by:
“CREATIVE ECONOMIES”

The Concept

The Asia-Europe Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture, the National Art Gallery Malaysia, Goethe Institute Kuala Lumpur and the Japan Foundation EUREKA Malaysia, in collaboration with the support of Nikon Malaysia, Organised the Emerging Photographers, the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and the German Trade and Investment in Malaysia presents the ‘Creative Economies’ Forum which will bring together 23 emerging photographers and 8 facilitators from resource persons from Asia and Europe. The Forum of the Chapters will be divided into two phases. The first phase will begin with the blog interaction and exchanges. The ‘Peter Bialobrzeski’ facilitator. The phase will be followed by an intensive week of lectures and workshops during 11-18 May 2009 in Kuala Lumpur. Where photography collaborations will be complemented with dialogues focusing on the participants’ perspectives of artistic photography and social, economic and political aspects of the “Creative Economies” with Peter Bialobrzeski (Germany), photographer and Professor for Photography, University of the Arts, Bremen, Shahidul Alam (Bangladesh), Director of ‘Chobi Mela’ - International Festival of Photography, Alex Moh (Malaysia) initiator of the Kuala Lumpur International Photography Biennale, Vee Linn (Malaysia) multimedia artist, Hironi Nakanishi (Japan), curator of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Nathalie Belayche (France), independent curator, Masaki Nishimiya (Japan) Dean of the Photography Department of Nagoya University of Arts and Sciences and Martin Fuchs (Austria), Magnum Photo editor.

The theme of the Asia-Europe Emerging Photographers’ Forum 2009 is centered on the topic of “Creative Economies.” 23 emerging photographers will portray indirect and alternative economic methods; how the picture from the theory of gift economies, social cooperation and creativity meet in the space of indeterminate economic capacity? The emerging photographers will exchange their photographic narratives that will explore the cutting edge use of documentary and digital photographic formats. To promote future visions and to overcome global financial instability at the local level this process will show the diverse range of possibilities of the medium of photography. The participants will also have the chance to exhibit their works on the theme of “Creative Economies” during a public exhibition to be inaugurated on Saturday May 17th, 2009 at the Annex Gallery Central Market, Kuala Lumpur.

The “Creative Economies” Forum will be publicly launched with the exhibition from the work called “Secured Area” at the National Art Gallery Malaysia on Tuesday, May 12th, 2009. This exhibition is as a result of the collaborative process with the participants of the Future Image: Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers, held in Ireland in 2007.

The photography forum was established in 2002 as part of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Young Artists’ Exchange pillar. ASEF artists’ exchange programme aims to evolve into positive artistic interventions and enable unique exchanges. The Emerging Photographers’ Forum wants to emphasize the significance of photography as a medium of communication that reflects the constantly changing society. Initiated by ASEF, the Fora focused on themes such as Migration, Urban Economy, the new Culture and Technology and was gathered 20-25 emerging photographers each year. Through this process ASEF facilitates new collaborations with the support of professional photographers, photography editors and curators using a variety of formats and platforms such as fieldwork research and online communication.

Asia-Europe Foundation with the cooperation of Balai Seni Lukis Negara Malaysia and Japan Foundation-Malaysia with the support of Nikon Malaysia, Annexe Gallery and Epsos Malaysia, is organized the Forum “Creative Economies” which aims to present the works of 23 artists who are capturing and preserving the area surrounding the group by dialog-dialog that can be found in this exhibit and the exhibition from a variety of artists from Asia and Europe. This exhibition is amazing the world and in which ways can social cooperation and creativity meet in the space of indeterminate economic capacity? The emerging photographers will exchange their artistic narratives that will explore the cutting edge use of documentary and digital photographic formats. To promote future visions and to overcome the instability and uncertainty at the economic level this process will show the diverse range of possibilities of the medium of photography. The participant will also be able to exhibit their works on the theme of “Creative Economies” during a public exhibition to be inaugurated on Saturday May 17th, 2009 at the Annex Gallery Central Market, Kuala Lumpur.

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PROGRAMMES

May 10th (Sunday)
Arrival of facilitators and participants

DAY 1
May 11th (Monday) National Art Gallery Malaysia

09.30am - 10.00am Registration
10.00am - 11.00am Welcome Speech by Dr Mohamed Najib Ahmad Dawas, Director General National Art Gallery Malaysia

11.00am - 11.30am Program launch/ briefing/ intro organizers/ facilitators
Invited participants only
Break

11.30am - 01.00pm Participants’ presentation and discussion of their works “Creative Economies” and preparation for exhibition.
Invited participants only

01.00pm - 02.00pm Lunch Break

02.00pm - 03.30pm “Exposing Yourself And Putting Your Work Out: Self Promotion In The Digital World”
- Ms. Nathalie Belasiche (France)
Invited participants only
Break

04.00pm - 06.00pm Open discussions on the theme “Creative Economies” For Work In Progress.
Invited participants only

DAY 2
May 12th (Tuesday) National Art Gallery Malaysia

09.30am - 11.00am The World According to Peter Bialobrzeski
- Mr. Peter Bialobrzeski (Germany)
Peter Bialobrzeski will take the forum on a journey looking back at the last 15 years of his career. He will highlight the important changes in his visual and conceptual approaches while explaining how venues and markets for the presentation of documentary works have changed during that time.
Participants and open
Break
DAY 3
May 13th (Wednesday) Annexe Gallery, Central Market

10.00am - 10.30am A brief introduction of the Annexe Gallery, Central Market

10.30am - 12.00pm Suturing Ideas And Storytelling Through Digitally Constructed Photographs In The Work of Artist Yee I-Lann
- Ms. Yee I-Lann (Malaysia)
Invited participants only

12.00pm - 1:00pm Lunch Break

01.00pm - 02.30pm Portfolio Reviews #1
Invited participants only

03.00pm - 05.00pm Portfolio Reviews #2
Invited participants only

05.30pm - 07.00pm An ASEF Private Event
Invited participants only

07.45pm - 09.15pm The Future of Photography
- Mr. Peter Biľak (Poland)
Peter Biľak will present the latest and most important positions in contemporary western documentary photography and will give a prediction of how markets and showplaces for documentary photography will develop in the coming years.
Participants and public

DAY 4
May 14th (Thursday) National Art Gallery Malaysia

09.30am - 11.00am Tools For Photographers/ Magnum Photo Blog Presentation
- Mr. Martin Fuchs (Australia)
Invited participants only

11.30am - 01.00pm In And Out of Tokyo: Tokyo Seen By Magnum Photographers From 1950's To The Present
- Mrs. Hiromi Nakamura (Japan)
Participants and public

01.00pm - 02.00pm Lunch Break

02.00pm - 03.30pm Chobi Mela, The International Festival of Photography Asia
- Dr. Shahidul Alam (Bangladesh)
Invited participants only

04.00pm - 06.00pm Preparation for exhibition presentation “Creative Economies”
Invited participants only

DAY 5
May 15th (Friday) National Art Gallery Malaysia

09.30am - 11.00am Katakana Gengo: Best Imaging Language Is Photography
- Mr. Masaaki Nishimura (Japan)
Invited participants only

11.30am - 01.00pm Visit to the Galeri Petronas, Suria KLCC Petronas Twin Towers
Invited participants only

01.00pm - 02.30pm Lunch Break

03.00pm - 05.00pm Preparation for exhibition “Creative Economies”
Invited participants only

06.00pm onwards Preparation for exhibition “Creative Economies”
Annexe Gallery, Central Market
Invited participants only
DAY 6
May 16th (Saturday)
Annexe Gallery, Central Market

10.00 am - 02.00 pm: Walk about the City with Nikon - a walk about photography session with local photographers in the city
Invited participants only

03.00 pm - 04.30 pm: The Use of The Digital Medium In Journalism And Documentary Photography Today
Dr. Shahidul Alam (Bangladesh)
Recent technological changes have led to great alterations in work practice. What do these changes represent to the working photographer? What are the survival strategies in this new era?
Invited participants only

Break

05.00 pm - 07.30 pm: Dorsett Regency Hotel
Invited participants only

DAY 7
May 17th (Sunday)

09.00 am - 02.00 pm: Cultural visit - Trip to Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur
Invited participants only

03.30 pm - 05.00 pm: Forum De Briefing
Annexe Gallery, Central Market
Invited participants only

05.30 pm onwards: Dorsett Regency Hotel
Invited participants only

DAY 8
May 18th (Monday)

Departure of participants and facilitators
BIODATA

PETER BIALOBRZESKI /// Germany

Peter Bialobrzeski studied Politics and Sociology before he became a photographer for a local paper in his native Wolfsburg/Germany. He traveled extensively in Asia before he went back to College in Essen and London to do courses in Photography. After having worked as a photojournalist for almost 15 years and published worldwide, Peter started to focus more on personal projects. In the last eight years he has published five books, “XXXholy”, “NEONTIGERS”, “HEIMAT”, “Lost in Transition” and recently “Paradise Now”. His work has been exhibited in Europe, USA, Asia, Africa and Australia. He won numerous awards including the prestigious World Press Photo Award 2003 for his work about Asian Megacities. He has been a member of several Juries including WorldPressPhoto in 2007 and 2009 and the prestigious Otto Steinert Award in Germany in 2005. Peter Bialobrzeski has been a visiting professor for photojournalism at the University of Essen in 1998/99. Since 2002 Peter is a regular Professor for photography at the University of the Arts in Bremen/Germany. Furthermore he runs workshops around the world. He is represented by Laurence Miller Gallery in New York, La Galerie in Frankfurt/Germany and also shows with Robert Morat Gallery in his hometown Hamburg.

SHAHIDUL ALAM /// Bangladesh

Shahidul Alam was born in 1955 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He studied and taught chemistry in London where he obtained a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) from the University of London. He started photography in 1980 and was awarded the Harvey Harris Trophy for being judged the best photographer of the year by the London Arts Council in 1983. He became the president of the Bangladesh Photographic Society where he served for three terms.
In 1989 he set up Drik picture library and Pathshala: South Asian Institute of Photography. He is also a director of Chobi Mela, the festival of photography in Asia. Jury member of numerous competitions including World Press Photo where he has been a judge on four occasions, he was the first person of colour to chair the international jury in World Press Photo history.

Awarded the Andrea Frank Foundation Award and the Howard Chapnick Award in 1998 he has also been awarded the Honorary Fellowships of the Bangladesh Photographic Society and later, the Royal Photographic Society in 2001, for his contribution to photography.

He is on the advisory board for the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund and the National Geographic Society. He is visiting professor of Sunderland University in the UK and Regent’s Lecturer at UCLA in the USA.

Alam is the founder chairman of Majority World, a global community interest initiative formed to provide a platform for indigenous photographers, photographic agencies and image collections from the majority world to gain access to global image markets.

ALEX MOH // Malaysia

Alex Moh, born 1958, is a photographer, teacher, curator, critic and project coordinator for numerous photography projects at national and international arena. He has served as a Guest Curator (Photography) with the National Art Gallery Malaysia, he has published the publications; Malaysian Photography (History & Beyond) in 2004 and The Lone Legacy: The Photography Collection of Dato Loke Wan Tho in 2008. In the past years he has participated and worked with several events and institutions such as: the International Photography Research Network (IPRN), Berlin 1st Photography Festival, CHOBi MELA, international festival of photography, in Asia held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, the Asia-Europe Foundation, Singapore and the International Photography Festival (ISPP). He spearheaded the Kuala Lumpur International Photography (KUP) Biennale in 2008.

HIROMI NAKAMURA // Japan


NATHALIE BELAYCHE // France

Nathalie Belayche is an independent curator and the founder of Food For Your Eyes Projects, a platform for international emerging photographers. Since 2007, she curates a travelling slideshows program with lectures to promote young photography from all continents.

She’s involved into the photography community over the past ten years, focusing on and promoting emerging photographers. Nathalie Belayche collaborates with galleries, publishers, institutions, festivals. She also serves as a lecturer at the Department of Photography, Hogeschool Sint Lukas in Brussels, and have been invited to participated in international portfolio-reviews and jury.

In the year 2007, he was the Project Coordinator and Curator for the project MALAYSIA @ 50: A Day in the Life of Malaysia under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture, Arts & Heritage Malaysia, celebrating 50 Years of Independence.
YEE I-LANN /// Malaysia

Incorporating various media including photography, film and installation, Yee I-Lann’s practice seeks connections between history, geography and cultural identity. In 1999 she represented Malaysia at the Third Asia-Pacific Triennial at the Queensland Art Gallery and in 2005 at the Contemporary Commonwealth exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia.

In 2007 Yee Lann took part in the ‘Independence Project’ and ‘Out of the Mould’ at Galet Petronas, Malaysia, ‘Thermocline of Art: New Asian Waves’ at ZKM Museum of Contemporary Art, Germany, ‘New Nature’ at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Zealand and was invited to speak about her practice under the Global Photography Now’ seminar at the Tate Modern, London.

MASAAKI NISHIMIYA /// Japan

Mr. Masaaki Nishimiya was born on Feb 4, 1933 in Tokyo as a son of Japanese traditional confectionary. Age of 12, he had to evacuate from U.S. bombing to Tokyo, and had stayed his relative’s house and had met Prof. Tanaka who teaches industrial design and also a photo enthusiast. When Nishimiya entered junior high school, he became an assistant of Prof. Tanaka. In these days, Mr. Nishimiya have started his life-long way of photography. For the period of his high school days, he already working as a photographer of Japanese fashion magazines and have had learned graphic design at Japan School of Advertising Art in Tokyo. Afterward, he established his own Photo-Visual production company named “Nishimiya Create” in Tokyo.

Now he is working positively to revalue the beauty of particle of chemical processed photography. and also teaching a lot of students as Department dean of Nagoya University of Arts and Sciences. His basic teaching view of photography “Photography is basic sketch drawing of every visual media” is based on his long term experiences, and well known by most of students and young photographers.

MARTIN FUCHS /// Austria

Martin Fuchs was born and raised in Vienna, Austria and now lives and works in New York City. Fuchs has been working as an editor, producer and designer for the renowned photo agency Magnum Photos since 2005. Since 2007 he is also responsible for the editorial content of the Magnum Blog.

Martin’s career in photography began in 2005 when he started to work for a local newspaper. Since then Fuchs has been photographing for a variety of national and international magazines, newspapers and clients. In 2008 he was a finalist at the Austrian Press Photographers prize Objektiv 08 in the portrait category. In 2008 he was also commissioned as the project photographer for the Vienna part of the OPENCities project by the British Council.

Because of Martin’s long lasting passion for photojournalism and his wish to share his experiences with other photographers and photo enthusiasts, he found “Journal Of A Photographer”, a blog about photography and passion.

Martin’s blog has received international recognition and over the course of the project he received equipment sponsoring from Canon Europe, Lexar and Color Vision and partnered with Digital Railroad.
BIOData

Participants

TAMMY DAVID

Philippines

Maria Luisita or "Tammy" David was born in Makati City, Philippines in 1984. She graduated with a certificate in Business Management at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines in 2007. In 2005, she pursued an internship at the Agence France-Presse Manila Bureau where she would later join as a contributor/stringer in 2008. Also in 2008, David joined the St Angkor Photo Festival in Siem Reap, Cambodia under the Free Workshop for Young Asian Photographers. In 2008, she was selected for Peter Bialobrzeski's Teach and Work program sponsored by the Goethe Institute in Manila. Her work on the national beauty pageant, "Mapping Invisible Cities," was exhibited at the Goethe Haus in Jakarta featuring the works of photographers from all over Asia. David also completed a Diploma Course in Photojournalism from the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism in partnership with the World Press Photo Foundation in the same year.

David's ongoing projects include "Pageant Culture," a visual study on a cultural phenomenon in the Philippines, and "Size Matters," a documentary on the Fat Acceptance movement in the United States.
Siddharth is a freelance photographer from India. He took up photography while pursuing a career in management after completing his masters in business administration from IIFT, Delhi in 2000. Since then he has been selected to attend workshops such as Young Asian Photographers Workshop 2006 at Angkor Photography Festival, VII at Kashmir (2007) with Gary Knight and TPW’s Focus at Monferrato 2007 (Italy) with Stanley Greene and Kadir Van Lohuizen.

His work has been shown at festivals such as Foto Freo 2008, Fotonoviembre 2007, & Angkor Photography Festival 2006, 2008. He has published for publications like Asian Geo, Passport Mag, Himal Mag and worked with Action Aid, The National Dispatches Masterclass and SEEDS India. Of late he has won TFA awards held in Bangalore in collaboration with Tasveer and showcased his first solo exhibition on Rajasthan at Angkor Photography festival. His work is also distributed by Zuma Press (USA) and OnAsia Images (Singapore). Currently he is working on long term book project that involves work on Rajasthan. He also covers stories of human interest. Based in New Delhi, India, his work can be seen ONLINE.
Anastasia Taylor-Lind is a young English photojournalist who is part of the prestigious VII Photo Agency mentor program. She is based in London where she works for clients such as The Sunday Times Magazine, The Guardian and Marie Claire. Anastasia’s work has been exhibited internationally, in spaces like The Frontline Club in London, Oude Kerk in Amsterdam and Fovea Exhibitions in New York.

Anastasia has won a number of photography awards including The Guardian Photography prize in 2006. In 2007 she was a selected winner in the Magenta Foundation Emerging Photographers Award and was shortlisted for the Anthropography Photojournalism competition on Human Rights earlier this year. A selection of her images were recently included in the book Kurds: A photographic history which was published by Trolley books. She has a BA in Documentary Photography from the University of Wales Newport and an MA in Photojournalism from the London College of Communication.
Ivor Prickett /// Ireland

Ivor Prickett, an Irish photographer, is currently based in London, from where he contributes to a number of leading publications whilst also working on long-term documentary projects.

His work about the displacement of Croatian Serbs was recognised through three major photography awards in 2007: the Ian Parry Scholarship, the BJP/Nikon Endframe Award and the National Portrait Gallery Photography Prize Godfrey Argent Award.

Ivor’s work has been published in The Sunday Times magazine, The Saturday Telegraph magazine, The Sunday Telegraph Seven magazine, The Guardian Weekend magazine, Geographical, Fotó, Daylight, Fader and Exit.

He completed a degree in Documentary Photography at the University of Wales, Newport.
Jörg Brüggemann was born in 1979 in Herne, Germany. In 2004 he started studying photography at the University of the Arts Bremen under the guidance of Professor Peter Babo. Jörg was part of the Kolkata Heritage Photo Project that published the book “Calcutta - Chelupur Road Neighbourhood’s about decayed architecture in Calcutta in 2007. In July 2008 he finished his studies with the diploma project Same Same But Different about western backpackers in Asia. The project got published in magazines all over the world like German Zeitmagazin, Spanish Ojo de Pez, Italian D-Magazine and Chinese Vision Magazine.

Since September 2008 Jörg is working as a freelance photographer based in Berlin. Apart from that he is frequently working for OSTKREUZ - Photographer’s Agency as project manager and editor and for DUMMY magazine and fluter magazine as photo editor.
RAFAELA PERSSON /// Sweden

Rafaela Persson graduated from the Documentary Photography and Photojournalism program at the International Center of Photography in New York in 2008 during which time she interned for Brenda Ann Kenneally.

Rafaela mainly works on long term projects, where she spends extended periods of time with her subjects, striving to create social awareness. Rafaela has been awarded several scholarships for her documentary work. She holds an MA in sociology with studies in human rights, international migration and ethnic relations from the University of Lund, Sweden. Rafaela Persson's photographs have been exhibited in Copenhagen, the International Center of Photography in New York, the Pingyao Festival in China and are in the ICMOD traveling exhibition: Nepal 2008, Germany, Switzerland, US and Japan in 2009. Publications include The New York Times, Sydasien, People Sweden, the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and the Canadian Film Board. She is currently based in Kabul, Afghanistan.
FERNANDO IZQUIERDO /// Spain

Fernando was born in a village near Barcelona in 1974 where he graduated as a medical laboratory technician. His interest in photography started very early but it wasn’t until moving to London in 1997 that he seriously considered to dedicate entirely to photography. Fernando then enrolled in a couple of preparatory courses at the Westminster Adult Education School in order to apply to the Westminster University on a Multimedia BA where he was offered a place in September 1998 and graduated in 2002 after 4 years of part time.

During those years he worked as a Darkroom technician and also taught some photography courses at the WAES. In year 2000 he exhibited a documentary project on Squatters Houses and in 2001 won a prize on Street Photography by the Royal Photography Society and curated by Wolfgang Tillmans. Soon after graduating he decided to try to earn his living from photography since he had already done a couple of jobs through a University contacts with an Advertising agency. Most of his works since then have been in collaboration with Industrial and Graphic Designers with whom the working relation and method has been very creative as well as editorial and advertising. In 2007 won a Laos Prize in Barcelona to best use of photography with a Lighting Catalogue done in collaboration with Mucho Studio. Fernando works from a studio in Barcelona where people from different creative backgrounds share experiences and collaborate together, he is also represented by photographers agency Bamboo.
AGATA MARZECOVA /// Slovakia

Born 20/07/1981 in Slovakia, Agata is a student at the Institute of Creative Photography in Opava, Czech Republic. Since 2008, she lives and works in Estonia. Previously has spent one year as a volunteer in Iceland, where Agata took part in environment-culture bridging projects.

Currently she is focusing on completing her final year degree works. This includes photographic series Portraits Precarious in which she document the lives of several young Europeans active in the sphere of culture and art, whose work in some way contradicts standard employment. she is interested to see how they, through their everyday decisions, question traditional categories of what is work and free time, learning and leisure time, career and failure.
ASSADA PORANANOND /// Thailand

Chiang Mai based photographer, Assada is also working as a full-time lecturer in Faculty of Fine Arts, Chiang Mai University situated in the north of Thailand. Assada was graduated from London College of Printing in 1999 and Goldsmiths College, University of London in 2000. His recent projects are about Chiang Mai both in its landscape and its people. Assada was trying to present a new aspect of the city which different from the picture that people perceive of Chiang Mai. At the moment, Assada is still in love with his teaching and photographing his unpredictable changing city.
Erma’s career started by borrowing cameras from friends and family and creating her own cameras out of boxes, pinhole cameras. It was the only means of practising her skills and understanding photography. She is now a freelance photographer and has exhibited in numerous exhibitions locally, including Young Photographers: At Badan Warisan for KLIP CUT, New Photography from Southeast Asia at Valentine Willie Fine Art and NYKL - Landmarks of New York and Kuala Lumpur at The Annexe Gallery, Cabinet Exhibition at Valentine Willie Fine Art Kuala Lumpur.

She chose photography as a medium because she always had a fascination towards the possibilities that a camera could capture. It becomes a time machine and the image captured is preserved in time. The medium itself is a very challenging tool, although now with digitally-enhanced cameras and image-editing software, many may say that it’s easy as you can deconstruct and reconstruct images with the help of digital manipulation. Erna likes to tell stories and is a very visual person hence, photography serves as her explanation tool.
ZIYUAN WANG /// China

Born in 1987, Ziyuan Wang’s first contact with photography was through her father, a calligrapher and an amateur photographer. She was impressed by the way light, color and motion was recorded and altered by the magic box, and years of learning calligraphy and painting cultivated her aesthetical sense. In 2000 she was admitted into the School of Journalism, People’s University of China, where she authentically begins to learn and express through photography. She believes that the true essence of photography lies in its documentation of nature and human history, be it displayed in conflict or in harmony. In 2008, she acted as curating assistant for “post-quake life in the eyes of 50 Wenchuan people” for the China Pingyao International Photography Festival (PIP), which won a Special Award for Outstanding Photography on PIP. Deeply affected by the untouched, rough pictures taken by earthquake victims, she curated the same exhibition in People’s University of China, with a redesigned display mode and rewritten foreword.

At the same time, her exploration of photography contains large amounts of writing. While working as an on-campus journalist for Beijing Today, she first made her articles and pictures published in the media. She began writing for Voice, an internet-based photography magazine since her summer intern at China Photographers Association. Published works include articles, feature stories, reviews and interviews with influential Chinese artist, photographers and WPP judge. She now writes for Photo China magazine, a photography magazine founded by China Art Academy and superintended by the Ministry of Culture. She is recently enrolled in Yale University’s summer session, to pursue a major in Art History.
VIGNES BALASINGAM /// Malaysia

Vignes Balasingam was born in 1975 in Kuala Lumpur. He was trained as a sound engineer and contemporary music arranger and orchestrator. Photography began in his pre-teens, largely encouraged by his mother. Vignes’ work has comprised of numerous commercial commissions with the banking, technology and development corporations. His personal work includes on-going work looking at the state of public transport in Kuala Lumpur, an essay on indigenous people of the peninsula and an extensive documentary portraiture project. Previous works include a documentary of the local underground music scene. He also runs a small group on Flickr called Kleptomaniac which attempts to promote street photography in Malaysia. His recent photography and design work for Estranged’s Remain Unknown has been nominated for best album artwork at the 2009 AIM Awards (Malaysian Music Industry Awards). Vignes resides and works out of Kuala Lumpur. Visit his work at: http://www.vignesbalasingam.com, www.flickr.com/vignesbalasingam, and www.vignesbalasingam.blogspot.com

Photo credit Prakash Daniel
AGUNG NUGROHO WIDHI /// Indonesia

Agung Nugroho Widhi is a visual artist based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Studied photography at the Institut Seni Indonesia (Indonesian Institute of the Arts), Yogyakarta. Agung is member of Ruang MES 56; an artist initiative space, where he is involved in several exhibitions, art projects in Indonesia and abroad. Besides that, he also produces and manages Video Battle (an independent short video compilation) with his two other colleagues.

http://mes56.com/
http://video-battle.net

Personal blog: http://statusavailable.blogspot.com/
KERSTIN DUELL /// Germany

Kerstin Duell is a German researcher and photographer working on socio-political issues in South and Southeast Asia. Her interests are transnational social movements, development and non-traditional security threats such as HIV/AIDS, migration and human trafficking. Based in Bangkok from November 2002 to May 2004, she worked on Burma, Cambodia and Thailand. In 2004, she received a PhD scholarship from the National University of Singapore for a study on Burma. She also holds an MA from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Previous work experience include the Forum Asia Foundation Bangkok, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation Berlin and Singapore, UNESCO World Heritage Centre Paris, the German public TV channel ARD, and Axel-Springer publishers. Kerstin speaks fluently English, French, German and Spanish. Since October 2006, Kerstin has been one of the fully sponsored OLYMPLUS SINGAPORE-photographers. She launched the E410 and was featured in the 2007 marketing campaign.

Kerstin Duell is a researcher and photographer focussing on socio-political issues in mainland Southeast Asia and Northeast India, in particular migration, HIV/AIDS and engaged Buddhism. She holds degrees in social sciences from Berlin, SOAS, University of London, and received a PhD scholarship from the National University of Singapore. Based in Asia since late 2001, Kerstin pursues photography as a way of documenting the lives of marginalised communities.

Her photos were exhibited at UNESCAP and the Goethe Institute Bangkok, the National Democratic Institute in Jakarta, and in Singapore at MICA, Indochine, the Buddhist Library, and the Asia Research Institute.

She has worked for NGOs and foundations including the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Jesuit Refugee Service, World Vision, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and UNESCAP. In 2008 she was invited by Panos Southasia to Northeast India.

Publications include a number of magazines in Asia and Europe, and the German Brockhaus Encyclopaedia. Kerstin had covers on Asian Photography (twice), International Herald Tribune/UNESCAP supplement, The Irrawaddy, World Vision magazine, and a book for Weltbild publishers. She is co-author/photographer of a forthcoming book on Cambodia partially funded by the Canadian Arts Council. Olympus Singapore sponsors Kerstin’s equipment since 2006. Some of her earlier work can be seen at www.kerstinduell.com
Zhao Renhui is a Singaporean artist. An artist and almost zoologist, his work blurs the boundaries between contemporary art and science. His practice investigates the different modes of the human zoological gaze, that is, how people view animals. He is interested in the history and development of the zoological gaze alongside social progress and mediation. In 2007, he was awarded a research grant by the Chelsea Arts Club in London for his zoological research work which enabled him to research the zoos, circuses and natural history museums in Spain. He has also won several awards for his series of work with zoology, including the AOP Student Photographer Of The Year award in 2007. At the moment, he is working closely with the Institute of Critical Zoologists on a series of public exhibitions, presentations and installations.

Robert and the Institute recently exhibited their research in the inaugural Photo-Levallois in France, "We decided to go to the zoo but it was raining" and the Ark Project at Pickford House Museum in the United Kingdom during the Format Festival. His documentary work on intense tiger farming in China was also shown in Chobi Mela V Festival, Bangladesh. The artist will also be presenting a major project in 2009 with The Substation, "If a tree falls in the forest".
Amit Madheshiya was born in 1982 in Mau (eastern Uttar Pradesh) in India. He studied English Literature at Hindu College and pursued a masters in Mass Communication at Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia in Delhi. He is documentary photographer currently based in Mumbai. He has been pursuing projects documenting the unique visual culture of the country. He is a recipient of the Tasveer Ghar Popular Art Fellowship 2008-09 for exploration of the prohibitory function of religious iconography (images of Gods on tiles) placed like mini-visual galleries on the streets. He is also working on an extensive documentation of the travelling tent cinemas across rural Maharashtra. The project is supported by a Fellowship from India Foundation for the Arts, under its Arts Research and Documentation programme. He has won the Sony World Photography Award in the Photojournalism and Documentary-Arts and Entertainment category for this work. For the tent talkies project, he is also working on an art installation, for Majlis as a part of their Cinema City project.

One of his long-term projects has been an extensive chronicle of the lives of children who choose to live on the streets in metropolitan cities in India. This work has been exhibited in India as part of ‘Eye Reveal’ – a UNIFEM project on trafficking of young children. For the same project, he was declared Runner Up in the Commonwealth-Canberra Times Photographer of the year 2007. He was also nominated for UNICEF Photographer of the Year Award for 2007 and 2008. Recently, Amit won the TOTO award for Emerging Photographers in India for 2009. He is also a freelance photographer and writer for Himal Southasian Magazine.
Angarag (Anlee) Davaasuren has started taking photos seriously in 2000 when he graduated from the Photographic school. He is an international Photographer and Cinematographer. From 2001 to 2008 he traveled in Asia photographing Japan, Korea, China, Thailand. He currently is living in Ulaanbaatar city, Mongolia. For the last 5 years, Angarag has worked as a freelance photographer and Cinematographer. His passion is natural life photography.
ALEX WONG /// Malaysia

Alex Wong was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He worked as a photographer, art director and freelance illustrator (Malaysia Prime Minister office) in Kuala Lumpur. After he graduated from Savannah College of Arts and Design (MFA), Georgia – USA, upon his graduation, he then worked at 3DO game and Electronic Arts game, San Francisco – USA as 3D animator. He has taught at the Sabancı University, Istanbul – Turkey since 2002 till now, in the area of Digital Video, Motion Graphics and Arts, Digital Modeling and Computer Animation. He is being accepted as Bournemouth University – National Centre of Computer Animation, UK as computer animation and graphic research member.

On top of that, he has been active in photography for the past 14 years. Alex received International Photography Award (IPA), CA, USA in year 2006 – 1st and 3rd place in Nature category, 2006 – 2nd place in Nature category and 2007 – 1st place in architecture-interior category. He gave seminar and exhibited his work in Malaysia, Singapore, China, Japan, France, USA, UK, Poland, Germany and Turkey. Alex has published a photographic and design book entitled Landographix. He is a regular editor/photographer to Photo creator publication. Recently, one of his photography series was selected to be exhibit in Paris, France.
Maika was born and raised in Hanoi, the city center of Vietnam. She graduated from Sociology Faculty, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi VNU in 2008. Maika started taking photos since 2005. She first received critical attention for her intimate portraits of young women, either lovers or friends, in sharp focus.

After that, she began to photograph streetlife and fashion, with all the passion. Maika especially loves color film, her photographs have been featured in SanhDieu Magazine, East and West, Viet Style, Dep Magazine, New world, Heritage of Vietnam. She is the founding member of ZK Media, providing Photo services 5A Cao Ba Ghus Street, Hanoi, Viet Nam. Some familiar customers: Samsung Vietnam, Ha Lan Shipping Company, Save Children in Vietnam (SCUS), Nghi Son Cement Joint Venture Company (Vietnam – Japan), Mekong Capital VN, Indochina Capital, Sweden SIDA Fund, Golden Sand Resort (Hoi An, Vietnam), etc. She now lives in Hanoi with her family. When not in the studio, she likes to spend her free time to travel by motorbike.
MARKEL REDONDO /// Spain

Markel Redondo is a freelance photographer based in Bilbao, Spain. He has completed a BA and MA in Photojournalism from the University of Bolton and has won awards in Spain and the UK. His work has been published and exhibited in various international publications and galleries and he has contributed with major NGO’s such as Greenpeace. Markel was finalist at Photo España 2007, nominated for the Joop Swart Masterclass in 2007 and took the prestigious Eddie Adams Workshop in 2007 as well. After spending two years documenting social issues in China he is based in Bilbao now, where he works on personal projects and commissions.
ADAM ADAMUS /// Poland

Born in Częstochowa, in 1982, Adam is young Polish photographer. In 2007 he completed his MA at the Łódź University in the International Relations. Last year, he graduated at Academy of Photography in Warsaw, Poland. The same time he started post-graduate studies of Global Development.

Thanks to his specialization he travels a lot. In 2008 he spent much time in Iran. Photos from this stay were base of his diploma, made under the guidance of Andrzej Zygmuntowicz. He collaborates with travel monthly “Magazyn Świat”. He has just came back from Andalucia, where he was documenting the Semana Santa events. Adam tries also in sport photos, but he consider himself as an urban/social photographer. Visit his work on Flickr.
THY HEANG /// Cambodia

Born in 1984, I am a very young emerging Cambodian photographer. In 2006, I graduated a BA in Media Management from Royal University of Phnom Penh. In 2007, I completed a BA in English Language from Royal University of Phnom Penh, too. I start involving in photography in 2006 and during the last one year of learning I had produced one project, fortunetellers, and the work was later exhibited in 2007. Because of my affection in doing documentary photography, in the same year I passed an Angkor Photography workshop with participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand, etc. During the workshop, I have produced one project on Sugar Palm Life.

Now I am communicator for On Cambodia Photography project and Development and Partnership in Action organisation. I am responsible publishing works including photographing and writing articles, feature stories, reports, case studies, etc. My photos are used within the organisation. In addition, I also train the staff members on basic photography. Exploring and learning from experienced and famous photographers and researchers are what I am looking forward to get from the ASEF.
Ahmet Polat is an ICP Infinity award (2006) winning photographer, cultural liaison officer and lecturer, who works both in Holland and Turkey for the past 13 years. Both in his autonomous and commercial work, Polat’s signature is evident: meticulous in composition, enigmatic in content, and expressing an overall warm-hearted curiosity for human relations. Polat’s work can be found in the outskirts of Turkey as well as in the high-society of Istanbul.

Since 1999, Polat has exhibited prolifically in international venues including Fotomuseum (The Hague), RAM (Rotterdam), FFFI (Frankfurt), and Gallery X-ist (Istanbul). In 2007, he had his first early retrospective at the Istanbul Modern. Polat’s 3rd book publication “...Neither Here Nor There…” was just released in October 2008. His work has been published in the French Vogue, Rolling Stone, New York Times, Volkskrant Newspaper, VICE magazine.

Since 2005 Polat lectured at the Bilkent University (Istanbul), Aki Enschede and the Royal Academy of Arts (The Hague), and worked on setting up several international exchange programs between universities. He is currently working on a new solo exhibition starting at the FOAM museum in Amsterdam, 2010 and he works with Foundation BKVB (Amsterdam) as a commission member.
Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, is located on the west coast of the Peninsula of Malaysia. Covering some 243 sq km, it lies approximately 40 km from the coast. Kuala Lumpur—or KL, as it is commonly called—is in a valley surrounded by jagged hills. Kuala Lumpur was originally a mining settlement in the late 1800s where tin was discovered at the confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers. Although KL’s tin trade has declined since, the prosperity of the city has continued to grow.

Today, KL is home to 1.5 million people within the city proper, and more than 6 million in the surrounding metropolitan area. It is the political and cultural centre of the nation. Kuala Lumpur leads Malaysia’s fast-paced development in trade and commerce, banking and finance, manufacturing, transportation, information technology and tourism. Malaysia is considered one of the fastest growing countries in South-East Asia.

It is curious that a city where you still have to watch your step for pavement cracks and pot-holes can also feel cutting edge, but cast your eyes to the skyline and around the streets and you’ll see what we mean. In just 150 years, KL has gone from a tin prospector’s hovel in the jungle to a thoroughly modern metropolis, home of the shiny Petronas Towers, a design classic and until recently the world’s tallest building. In the rush for the new, much of the old has been (and is being) demolished. Still, some impressive colonial-era buildings remain and the city’s most atmospheric and colourful quarters are Chinatown, Little India and Kampung Baru, the heartlands of KL’s Chinese, Indian and Malay communities.

Kuala Lumpur is also a shoppers’ haven. The Central Market is a huge centre with restaurants and a good place to shop for curios and handicraft items. If your timing is right visit the Sunday Market (it usually opens from Saturday night until the wee hours of Sunday morning). When tourist arrived there, they will find out full of Malaysian culture, and it could probably get some Malaysia history through the handicraft items.

Other shopping opportunities are Lot 10 (upmarket branded goods); KL Plaza; Sungai Wang Plaza; Imbi Plaza and Low Yat Plaza (computer and electronic goods); and Berjaya Times Squares (upmarket, too). All located in the so-called Golden Triangle of KL. Slightly out of town is the Mid-Valley Megamall.

KL’s temperature ranges from 21°C to 33°C and the average humidity exceeds 82%. Although there is rain through the year, March to April and September to November are the wettest months.

The standard time Malaysian time is eight (8) hours ahead of GMT.

Malaysia’s official language is Bahasa Malaysia. English is widely spoken.

Malaysia’s Official Religion is Islam. The population comprises Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and followers of other religions.
**USEFUL INFORMATION**

/// Visa

A valid passport (and visa if applicable) is necessary for all persons entering Malaysia. If you require a visa to travel to Malaysia you will need to apply for one as soon as possible. You can also enquire with your travel agent about the documentation needed for the application at your local embassy.

All visitors are required to complete an Arrival/Departure Card and a Custom Declaration Form, which will be provided on the aircraft or at the arrival hall in the airport.

/// Entry Requirements

A valid passport (and visa if applicable) is necessary for all persons entering Malaysia. All visitors are required to complete an Arrival/Departure Card and a Custom Declaration Form.

/// Prohibited Goods

The trafficking of dangerous drugs in Malaysia is a serious offence that can result in a mandatory death sentence. Special permits are required to carry firearms and ammunition.

/// Arriving In Kuala Lumpur

You will be arriving at Kuala Lumpur’s main airport, Kuala Lumpur International Airport 75km south of the city centre at Sepang.

Airport Information counter (+603) 8777 8888
24HR Information desk (+603) 8776 2000

At KLIA’s international arrival hall there’s a useful Tourism Malaysia office (9776 5551, 6am-midnight); a Celcom stand selling prepaid SIM cards for your mobile phone (open 7am to 11pm).

/// Money Matters

Most of the foreign currencies such including the popular US$, Euro, Japanese Yen are accepted at all money changers and for all items/services the currency used in all transactions in Malaysia is in Ringgit Malaysia (RM).

You will seldom be far from a bank/ATM. Money changers offer better rates than banks for changing cash and (at times) travellers cheques; usually open later hours and on weekends and found in shopping malls. Major credit cards are widely accepted.
All participants are staying at the Dorsett Regency Hotel, very pleasant and comfortable, centrally located Hotel. The hotel provides broadband internet access in the rooms and has also a swimming pool.

DORSETT REGENCY HOTEL 172 Jalan Imbi 55100 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Tel : (+60) 2715 1000 Fax : (+60) 2715 5000 www.dorsettreGENCY.com.my

The hotel is located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, a 15 minutes walking distance to Jalan Bukit Bintang, where all the best food, entertainments and shopping centers for electronic goods, clothing etc, etc, are located along this main street, a busy and popular street for locals and tourists at large until early morning hours. Traffic can be heavy at certain hours and public transports are easily available to access to other part of the city. The two venues for the forum, the National Art Gallery Malaysia and Anxexe Gallery, Central Market are located at both ends, roughly 10 to 15 minutes by taxi during non-peak traffic hours.

The organiser covers your accommodation during your stay of the forum. Each participant must be personally responsible for any additional charges incurred during their stay (like telephone bills, mini bars, room services etc), required to personally checkout, (including those who are twin sharing) and observe the checkout time on the last day of the stay. Any participant’s unpaid incidental charges that are passed on to the organisers will be billed to the participant. Should anyone wish to extend your stay, please liaise with the Coordinator in charge of hotel bookings.

The weather is humid and hot throughout most of the day unless it rains. Casual and loose clothing is recommended except you want to have a light jacket or pullover especially confined to indoor air conditioning for services before paying. Other than selected departmental stores or boutique stalls, it is common for customers to bargain, fares around town start at RM5 and it should cost no more than RM10 to go right across the central city area.

KL has plenty of taxis, and fares are cheap, starting at RM2 for the first kilometre, with an additional 10 sen for each 200m. From midnight to 6am, there is a surcharge of 50% on the metered fare, and extra passengers (more than two) are charged 20 sen each. Luggage placed in the boot costs an extra RM1.

Even though the law mandates the use of the meter, you will often find taxi drivers unwilling to use it, citing KL’s traffic or the out-of-the-way location of your destination as a reason. Taxi drivers lingering outside luxury hotels are especially guilty of this behavior. Stand your ground and, if necessary, walk off and hail another taxi. If you choose to bargain, fares around town start at RM5 and it should cost no more than RM10 to go right across the central city area.

Be aware that taxis will only stop at the numerous officially signposted taxi stands and although it is possible to wave one down, some drivers are reluctant to stop.

KL Sentral in Brickfields, 1km south of the historic old train station, is the hub of a sophisticated rail-based urban network consisting of the KTM Komuter, KLIA Ekspres, KLIA Transit, LRT and Monorail systems. KL has streamlined its confusing bus system. Now you will mainly see rapid KL (www.rapidkl.com.my) and metroliner buses. There is an information booth (am-9pm) at the Jln Sultan mohammed bus stop in Brickfields.

KL is advisable to look out for the non smoking sign before one smoke, otherwise you may be fined.

Pricing & Bargains

It is the government regulation that all goods or services sold must be price tagged in ringgit Malaysia (rm), and it is against the law for not displaying or stating the price. You are always advised to confirm the price of any item or service before paying. Other than selected departmental stores or boutique stalls, it is common for customers to bargain for better prices.
/// Personal Belongings

The organisers are not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items or luggage. You are fully responsible for your own safekeeping of your belongings. Please do not leave your belongings unattended in public places or at unauthorised areas at the venues of the forum. Never let your belongings out of sight, particularly at public places, where it is common for items to vanish if unattended, as pickpockets and bag snatching can be a problem. We will have an enclosed working area for all the participants for temporary keeping of unimportant belongings within the premise of the forum. It is advisable to carry and keep your passport, camera, notebook, cash (not too much) etc, to yourself at all times. REMINDER: DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR LUGGAGE. In each of the hotel rooms, a safe deposit box is provided.

/// Electricity

The voltage in Malaysia is 240V AC. Plugs have 3 square pins and take fuses of 3.5 and 13 amps. Visitors may need an adaptor for appliances.

/// Water

It is advisable not to drink direct water out from taps, but to boil before consuming. Safe drinking bottle water is cheaply and conveniently available at most sundry stores around the city.

/// International Dialing

Cheap call rates are within 7.00pm to 6.00am daily. To call a local number within Kuala Lumpur or Selangor from a public paid phone you are required to direct the main numbers without having to dial 03. All outside station calls are required to dial the area code. To make international calls using your mobile phones, dial <the international access code> + <Country Code> + <Local Area Code> + <Telephone Number>.

International access code for Malaysia is 00. When making international call using mobile phones, you can use “+” instead of “00” as well.

/// Accessing The Internet

Broadband internet access is available in the hotel room at the rate of RM15 per hour or RM30 for 24 hour. It is also possible to access free wifi internet at the lounge of the hotel from the adjacent Ritz Carlton hotel. Otherwise, it is very easy to find free wifi hotspots and internet cafés around Bukit Bintang area with hourly rates less than half of the hotel rate. Shopping malls such as Low Yat Plaza, provide free wifi internet at multiple levels. Free wifi internet is generally provided in cafes and restaurants such as Starbucks and Coffee Beans in the shopping malls around the areas (Pavillion, Bukit Bintang Plaza, Sg. Wang Plaza).
FOREIGN EMBASSIES

### EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA IN KUALA LUMPUR
Wisma Goldhill
Suite 10-10, Level 10
67, Jalan Raja Chulan
50200 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : (+603) 2057 0020
(+603) 2057 9432
(+603) 2057 8569
Fax : (+603) 2381 7168

### EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA IN KUALA LUMPUR
No 46, Jalan U-Thant
55000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : (+603) 4257 1150
(+603) 4257 3711
Fax : (+603) 4257 1157
Email : reckl@tm.net.my

### EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN KUALA LUMPUR
192-196 Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : (+603) 2053 5500
Fax : (+603) 2053 5501
Website : www.ambfance-my.org/
Email : ambafrance@diplomatie.gouv.fr

### GERMAN EMBASSY IN MALAYSIA
20th Floor Menara Tan&Tan
Jalan Tun Razak
50400 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : (+603) 2142 9886
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