German Commission for UNESCO and Asia-Europe Foundation promote best practices for diversity of cultural expressions

The German Commission for UNESCO and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) will launch the publication Mapping Cultural Diversity – Good Practices from Around the Globe at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, on 29 November 2010. The launch of this book, which highlights innovative projects that promote the diversity of cultural expressions, commemorates the 5th anniversary celebration of UNESCO’s Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005). The event is held at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention.

The Convention is a legally-binding international agreement that ensures artists, cultural professionals, practitioners and citizens worldwide can create, produce, disseminate and enjoy a broad range of cultural goods, services and activities, including their own. The publication profiles 39 case studies in different fields that protect, preserve and/or promote the diversity of cultural expressions, especially those that belong to minority cultures. Members of the U40 Network for “Cultural Diversity 2030”, a group of young cultural policy experts under 40 years of age, were selected by the German Commission for UNESCO to put together this publication.

“In 2008, ASEF committed itself to working with governments and civil society to facilitate more dialogue on the Convention as it can play a vital role in facilitating the exchange of best practices among different stakeholders”, said Ambassador Dominique Girard, ASEF Executive Director. “With this publication, we deliver on that commitment. The tangible and inspirational examples included here serve as good illustrations of the implementation of the Convention in different fields.”

The publication will be available in both print and electronic versions. The electronic version is available for download on the ASEF website (www.asef.org) and ASEF’s arts and culture portal culture360.org (www.culture360.org).

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About the Organisations:

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org

The German Commission for UNESCO is the link between Germany and UNESCO. It is one of 196 National Commission established under Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution. It acts as an intermediary of foreign cultural and educational policy, and is funded by the Federal Foreign Office. The German Commission was founded in May 1950, even before Germany had been admitted to UNESCO in July 1951 and is based in Bonn. Its members – which number around 100 – reflect the broad spectrum of institutions and associations active in Germany in UNESCO’s areas of competence: education, science, culture and communication. The Commission advises the Federal Government, Parliament and all other public bodies on UNESCO issues, as well as on selected issues in the competence of the Council of Europe.