ASEM Culture Ministers stand for Asia-Europe dialogue

The significant role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in reinforcing the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process was highly appreciated at the 5th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (5th ASEM CMM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (18-19 September 2012).

The Ministers recognised ASEF’s potential in translating some of the recommendations of the 5th ASEM CMM into concrete activities. These recommendations include setting up experts’ meetings, heritage awareness programmes for youth, heritage networks and mapping of good practices.

The Ministers encouraged all ASEM partners to tap on this potential bringing added value to cultural dialogue between Asia and Europe. They also acknowledged ASEF’s contribution in spearheading the development of the online platform, culture360.org. This portal is a “concrete deliverable” of the ASEM process that promotes exchange of information on arts and culture in the ASEM region.

The Ministers welcomed the compilation of good practices on managing heritage cities facilitated by ASEF. The compilation supports exchange of knowledge and experiences related to good governance of heritage cities. This was in view of the agenda of the 5th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting, “Managing Heritage Cities for a Sustainable Future”.

This compilation of 36 case studies from over 20 ASEM countries will take the form of a print publication, “Managing Heritage Cities: the Role of Public-Private Partnerships – Good Practices from Asia and Europe”. It will be published by ASEF in October 2012. The case studies were compiled in partnership with Europa Nostra and the International National Trusts Organisations.

ASEF presented the above-mentioned case studies and recommendations from civil experts at the 5th ASEM CMM. The recommendations are the outcome of the Experts’ Meeting, “Managing Heritage Cities in Asia and Europe: the Role of Public-Private Partnerships” in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (12-14 July 2012). It was co-organised by ASEF and Universitas Gadjah Mada (See Annex A: Summary Report of the Experts’ Meeting). One of the key recommendations was the need for public institutions and private stakeholders to co-operate in all phases of planning, implementation and monitoring in managing heritage cities.

During the 5th ASEM CMM, ASEF also presented the 17th ASEF University programme on “Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities” (2011, George Town, Malaysia). Through the presentation, the Ministers recognised that heritage cities could be the laboratory for youth training on heritage issues.

ABOUT THE ORGANISER

Asia-Europe Foundation

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), which currently comprises of 46 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat (www.aseminfoboard.org). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 600 projects in the realms of economy and society, public health, sustainable development and environment, academic co-operation and education, arts and culture and governance and human rights www.asef.org

In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating Connected Histories, Shared Future.