Indeed, ASEF’s achievements since its founding in 1996 have been remarkable for such a small and young organisation. It has conducted over 400 projects to date, involving some 15,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. ASEF has worked in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries.

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This report covers calendar year 2008. It was an eventful year where ASEF once again demonstrated its strengths in working with civil society in Asia and Europe in promoting linkages and mutual understanding between the two regions.

Chairman’s Message

The 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 binational networks focused 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 some 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.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was initiated in 1996 when the ASEM leaders met in Bangkok, Thailand. ASEM is an informal transregional platform for dialogue and co-operation between the two regions and has arisen out of a recognition that the relationship between Asia and Europe needed to be strengthened in light of the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

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The ASEM process is based on an equal partnership and its activities are grouped according to areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations. It has initiated projects engaging some 14,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. ASEF operates in the context of a growing number of initiatives aimed at fostering mutual understanding and co-operation between Asia and Europe.

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The Board of Governors of ASEF, appointed by the respective ASEM partners. The Governors are nominated for a renewable period of three years. The Board meets thrice in a two year cycle and sets out policy directions of ASEF.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of my predecessor, Amb. Wonil Cho of Korea, who led the organisation for four sometimes challenging years. ASEF’s achievements since its founding have been profoundly impressive, with a wide reach. The Foundation’s mission is a unique and challenging one, having been charged by the ASEM political process to bring the people of Asia and Europe closer together and to enhance mutual understanding. As it involves shaping people’s attitudes, the work often covers sensitive areas with political overtones, which require delicate yet targeted approaches. I was fortunate to witness firsthand the performance and value of ASEF’s projects at the ASEF 7 Summit in Beijing, China in October 2008, just before my term at ASEF had commenced. Here, I discovered that, small as it is, the Foundation successfully launched 5 diverse projects that complemented the Summit and added visibility to it. I was immediately struck by the value of these projects and the professionalism and energy of the staff. This left me with no doubt about the quality of ASEF, both in terms of its people and its outputs, but also from the perspective of in-depth linkages with local partner organisations and the value of its alumni.

However, ASEF’s past successes should not pull it into complacency. In a world where the pace of change is intensifying and where prospects for the years ahead are uncertain in the face of a severe financial and economic crisis, several questions arise. What is next for ASEF? Can the Foundation stay relevant and indeed improve its ability to forge permanent networks across the ASEM political process to bring the people of Asia and Europe closer together and to enhance mutual understanding? At the outset, it is clear that ASEF must continue to leverage on its inherent strengths – its ability to bring permanent networks across the region and to bring together experts and opinion shapers in key areas of importance to Asia and Europe. At the same time, ASEF needs to stay nimble and adaptable to a dynamic global environment. While retaining and enhancing the successful aspects of the Foundation, it is also vital that we make changes where it would better suit the current global situation by focusing its efforts for the year ahead towards three major areas: public health and pandemics, environment and sustainable development, as well as economy and society. The rationale behind these choices is clear – they respond to pressing concerns in the global and ASEM agenda and are areas in which ASEF has established a recognised track record. Other key areas where ASEF has established a notable track record, such as education, arts and culture, will continue to feature prominently on the ASEF agenda.

In addition, we will work to maximise public awareness on key issues impacting Asia-Europe relations through ASEF projects. A large part of this communications strategy involves drawing on the relationships we enjoy with the media, key partners and alumni in both regions. In my optimism about the future of ASEF, I am also aware of the many challenges that we face. While charting ASEF’s future direction, it is of paramount importance that we remain focused, adaptable and prudent in managing our cost structure. Of course, this is not something that I can achieve on my own. I have started working with ASEF’s dedicated staff and partner organisations towards new and creative ways of extending the reach of what we can do. We will step up efforts to engage ASEF’s alumni, who act as important multipliers, reinforcing the impact of our work.

I assumed the role of Executive Director of ASEF in November 2008 with almost 40 years in the French Foreign Service. Having spent most of those years in Asia, the opportunity to join ASEF presents an exciting chance to contribute to a bi-regional relationship from a different people-to-people perspective and to use my experience to further the Foundation’s goals.

The Board of Governors as of 31st December 2008

Austria
Ambassador Dr Wolfgang Schallenberg

Belgium
Ambassador Marc Calvoen

Brunei Darussalam
Ambassador Pengiran Hadji Yusup bin Pengiran Haji Mahmod Dato’ Kim Raja Mahmod Salim Paduka Haji Elia (till Jul 2008)

Bulgaria
Mr Botevski Pavlin

Cambodia
H.E. Mrs Tust Panha

China
Ambassador Lu Yongzhong

Cyprus
Sir Timothy Lankester

Czech Republic
Ambassador Jan Fury M.A. and Zdenka A. (till June 2008)

Denmark
Ambassador Prof. J. Bredsmo Møller

Estonia
Ambassador Jari Marttinen

Finland
Dr Jouko Suonio

France
Ambassador Dominique Perreau

Germany
Prof Dr Helmut Haussmann

Greece
Ambassador Dr Stelios Mouzouris

Hungary
Ambassador Dr Andra Balogh

India
Ambassador Dr Subrahmanyan Jaishankar

Indonesia
Ambassador Sadianto Wiyono

Ireland
Dr Thomas P. Hardiman

Italy
Dr Marco Grassi

Japan
Ambassador Taketoshi Kurokawa

Korea
Ambassador Kim Samsoon

Lao PDR
Mr Khamsana Khaykhamphithone

Latvia
Ambassador Dr Einars Semanis

Lithuania
Ambassador Darius Petraus Kernaitis

Luxembourg
Mr Edmund Israel

Malaysia
Ambassador Datuk’ Ramathan Vengadasan

Mattai
Prof Henry Joseph Frenco

Mongolia
To be confirmed

Myanmar
Ambassador U Win Myint

The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. K.W. Stolhof

Pakistan
Mr Muhammad Abdul Malik Khan
Mr Noor Muhammad Jahani (till July 2008)

The Philippines
Ambassador Rosario G Malana
Ms Marie Demetra Arangola-Cohnlin (till Jan 2008)

Poland
Ambassador Boguslaw Majewski (till 10 Oct 2008)

Portugal
Ambassador Lourenco General Vasco Rosa Vieira

Romania
Ambassador Ioan Donea (wef Feb 2008)

Singapore
Dr Tan Chin Nam

Slovakia
Mr Milan Zachar

Slovenia
Ambassador Helena Drnovsek Zorko

Spain
Mr Jesus Sanz Escorihuela

Sweden
H.E. Stig Ehrencrona

Thailand
Ambassador Sawant Kongki

The Netherlands
Ambassador Sanjiv Chavaneling (till Apr 2008)

United Kingdom
Sir Timothy Lankester

Vietnam
Mr Tran Ngoc Quy (till Mar 2008)

AUSM Secretariat
Mr Shaheen Surojo

European Commission
Dr Horst G Kreder

ASEF is governed by a Board of Governors, appointed by the respective ASEM partners. The Governors are nominated for a renewable period of three years. The Board meets thrice in a two year cycle and sets out policy directions of ASEF.

Given the size of our organisation, it is obvious that ASEF cannot accomplish everything in all areas. It is therefore necessary to sharpen our focus, prioritizing areas of critical significance. The Foundation will efficiently adjust to the current global situation by focusing its efforts for the year ahead towards three major areas: public health and pandemics, environment and sustainable development, as well as economy and society. The rationale behind these choices is clear – they respond to pressing concerns in the global and ASEM agenda and are areas in which ASEF has established a recognised track record. Other key areas where ASEF has established a notable track record, such as education, arts and culture, will continue to feature prominently on the ASEF agenda.

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I count on the continued support of our stakeholders, the ASEM governments, as well as the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. I also look forward to working with ASEF’s distinguished Board of Governors, led by the newly elected Chairman, Ambassador Dr Andra Balagh (Hong Kong) and Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Datin Hajah Maimunah Dato’ bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud (Malaysia), to steer the organisation forward.

I assumed the role of Executive Director of ASEF in November 2008 with almost 40 years in the French Foreign Service. Having spent most of those years in Asia, the opportunity to join ASEF presents an exciting chance to contribute to a bi-regional relationship from a different people-to-people perspective and to use my experience to further the Foundation’s goals.

Executive Director’s Message

Ambassador Dominique Girard

ASEF Executive Director

Ambassador Dr Wolfgang Schallenberg

Ambassador Dr Wolfgang Schallenberg
**The Executive Office**

The Executive Office enhances ASEF’s performance through management decisions based on the directions and policy guidelines set out by the ASEM Governments and the ASEF Board of Governors.

It is responsible for ASEF’s overall capability and readiness to deliver and achieve its objectives, as well as operational requirements. At the same time, the Executive Office ensures efficient co-ordination within the Foundation and with its stakeholders.

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**The Cultural Exchange department (CE) seeks to provide young artists and cultural professionals a unique environment for dialogue leading to exchanges of artistic practices, dynamic cultural networks and cultural policy development in and between Asia and Europe.**

CE’s areas of co-operation:

- **Young Artists’ Exchange**
  - ASEF facilitates Asia-Europe encounters among young artists to exchange ideas, information, contacts and best practices through face-to-face and online meetings. This area of co-operation aims to nurture creativity through collaboration in various art forms leading to future synergies and the opening up of career opportunities.
  - **Comics and Graphic Novels**: The LINGUA COMICA programme series is organised for creators, artists, writers and commentators who work in the field of comics and graphic novels.
  - **Contemporary Dance**: PoisToPaint: Asia-Europe Dance Forum is a series where young choreographers and dance/movement artists come together and receive support through peer-to-peer exchanges under the guidance of experienced dancers, choreographers or dance critics as facilitators.
  - **Film**: The Asia-Europe Film Meeting programme series engages young and established film-making professionals from Asia and Europe on topics such as fundraising, as well as the development of independent film-making.
  - **Music**: Young musicians from Asia and Europe convene through the I'mPULSE: Asia-Europe Music Camp series which provides support through peer-to-peer exchanges under the guidance of experienced musicians, conductors and other music professionals as facilitators.
  - **Photography**: With the Asia-Europe Emerging Photographers’ Forum series, emerging photographers, photography editors and curators from Asia and Europe come together to discuss pertinent issues in professional practice as well as the role of photography today.
  - **Visual Arts and New Media**: The Asia-Europe Art Camp series brings together Master’s degree-level students, young artists and ASEF’s experienced resource panel members who practice visual arts and new media arts in the 2 continents.

**Process Oriented Platforms for Exchange**

Initiating and promoting cultural networks for the development of sustainable links and innovative co-operation projects through physical meetings and online platforms in different disciplines and thematic areas.

- **Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)** promotes exchange of heritage through sharing of museum collections, best practices in museum management and creating online and offline projects together (http://www.asemus.museum).
- **Artists’ Networks and Autonomous Cultural Centres**
  - *Dialogue on Policy and Culture*
  - "Process Oriented Platforms for Exchange" is a programme which reinforces connections between policy makers through platforms of online and offline exchanges in various thematic areas. It is designed to address pertinent issues in art and society.
- **Connect2Culture** is a programme which reinforces connections between policy makers through platforms of online and offline exchanges in various thematic areas. It is designed to address pertinent issues in art and society.
  - **Cultural 360** is an Asia-Europe cultural portal initiated by ASEF and facilitated by ASEF which showcases cultural practitioners from both regions together and facilitates multilateral cooperation in the arts. It also helps promote exchange of ideas, information and contacts in the cultural scene within the ASEM countries. (http://www.culture360.org)
  - **SEA-Images** website (referring to Synergy Europe-Asia in the field of photography editors and curators who work in the field of comics and graphic novels.

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**SEA-Images** website (referring to Synergy Europe-Asia in the field of photography editors and curators who work in the field of comics and graphic novels.)

**www.culture-asef.org** was created in co-operation with Universe-in-Universe and Worlds of Art, to promote Asia-Europe exchanges in the visual arts field. It contains a directory of cultural institutions, organisations, festivals, research studies, exchange programmes, exhibitions and private initiatives of art professionals in the ASEM countries.

**Dialogue on Policy and Culture**

ASEF’s Cultural Exchange department is an interface for policy makers and practitioners. It advocates policies to promote creativity, artistic development and cultural diversity at the government level in ASEM countries.
The Intellectual Exchange (IE) department (IE) contributes to policy debates in the ASEM framework by providing a common platform for civil society actors and officials from government and multilateral institutions through a variety of formats (conferences, roundtables, public panels, lecture tours, retreat-style workshops), depending on the nature of the policy issue. Participants of IE projects are drawn from the academy, the media, governments, private institutions, research centres, think-tanks, non-government organisations (NGOs), trade unions, foundations, Asian ‘cultural houses’ in Europe and European ‘cultural houses’ in Asia, with the strategic aim of reinforcing specialised networks throughout Asia and Europe and creating new ones. IE contributes policy recommendations from civil society to ASEM and other international dialogue processes.

IE’s areas of coverage are:

- Governance
- Reining the role of civil society in good governance with Asia-Europe exchanges that benefit the peoples of both regions.
- The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights, successors to two regions in thirteenth style closed-door meetings on current issues.
- The Conference Series brings together small groups of high-level personalities from the two regions in thirteenth style closed-door meetings on current issues.
- The ASEM Europe Democratization and Justice Series is a platform to explore differences, similarities and challenges of democratization processes, particularly in countries undergoing political transition in Asia and Europe.

Academic Co-operation
- Promoting cross-regional partnership in Asian and European studies.
- The Asia-Europe Workshop Series (AESWS) supports academic institutions in the organisation of workshops on themes of common interest to Asia and Europe. (www.aesws.asiaseef.org)
- The European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network was launched to stimulate European studies in the Asia region by creating synergies between European studies centres in both Asia and Europe as well as strengthening the interaction between existing networks in Asia. (www.asiaseef.org)
- Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations
  - Forum to facilitate mutual understanding and dialogue on fundamental issues related to relations among cultural, religious or ethnic communities. (www.civildialogues.asiaseef.org)
- Talks on the Hill brings together small groups of high-level personalities from the two regions in thirteenth style closed-door meetings on current issues.
- The Conference Series brings together academics and professionals in an open public meeting to transform the fruit of dialogues into action.

International Relations
- Debate and discourse on issues concomitant to regional integration.
- Asia-Europe Roundtable (AER) is a series that promotes discourse on conflict management and peace-building in ASEM countries, with a special focus on the role of Civil Society and regional-level action.
- The Regional Integration Series analyses issues related to the ASEM process, management and reform of regional institutions, security and governance.
- Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe is a series of multi-stakeholder consultations held on the sidelines of the ASEM Summit in co-operation with the Asia-Europe People’s Forum and the Asia-Europe Business Forum.
- Asia-Europe Dialogue on Economy and Society is a new series on integration in Asia and Europe that focuses on the impact of new economic policies on Asian and European society.

Environment and Sustainable Development
- Providing a unique platform for policy discourses on environment and sustainable development through the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (www.ems.asiaseef.org)
- Roundtables centre on key environmental and sustainable development themes, generating policy recommendations for today based on scenarios of the future.
- Track II Series panels are organised to provide an informal forum for discussion on current policy issues, international meetings and negotiations of collaborative and international environment agreements.

Each of the IE areas of work mentioned above includes Asia-Europe Lecture Tours that bring opinion leaders from one region to the other region to speak on timely and relevant topics.

The People-to-People Exchange (P2P) department (P2P) promotes greater mutual understanding among the next generation of leaders in Asia and Europe and conducts activities that build strong partnerships and support greater mobility for the youth of Asia and Europe. Projects enable academics, researchers, teachers and students as well as young volunteers, activists, trainers and leaders to gain an acute awareness and intercultural appreciation of the other region, and to work together for a common future based on cross-cultural ties. The results are networks for education and youth co-operation that are sustainable and dynamic.

P2P’s main areas of action are:

- Education Co-operation
  - Reinforcing partnerships and fostering exchanges in the field of education.
  - The ASEM University Programme (AUP) is a flagship project of ASEM that is aimed at promoting intercultural exchanges among university students from Asia and Europe. The ASEM University Programme (AUP) is a two-week intensive enrichment programme that is held once a year at venues alternating between Asia and Europe.

The Asia-Europe Classroom Network
- A series of multi-dimensional frameworks to support education and youth co-operation between Asian and European studies.
- The AEC provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges among teachers and students in Asia and Europe. (www.aec-asiaseef.org)

The ASEM Education Hub (AEH) works as a bi-regional and multi-dimensional framework to support higher education initiatives and engage universities, schools and its activities, the AEC provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges among teachers and students in Asia and Europe. (www.aec-asiaseef.org)

- Asian-Europe Colloquy on University Co-operation Series
- ASEM Rectors’ Conference
- Database on Education Exchange Programmes (DEEP): http://deep.asiaseef.org
- Asia-Europe Thematic Networks
- Advisory Committee

Youth Co-operation
- Strengthening and sustaining contacts, dialogue and cooperation among youth and youth organisations in ASEM countries.
- The Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) is a unique programme that connects secondary school students, teachers and students in Asia and Europe. It is a cyber-classroom project that is being shared by students and teachers to build stronger regional networks and partnerships through the use of ICT for better understanding and intercultural dialogues. Through its activities, the AEC provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges among students and teachers in Asia and Europe. (http://aecs-asiaseef.org)

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- the Asian-Europe Young Leaders Symposium (AELYS): a series of multi-dimensional frameworks to support higher education initiatives and engage universities, schools and its activities, the AEC provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges among teachers and students in Asia and Europe. (www.aec-asiaseef.org)

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Public Affairs (PA)

The Public Affairs department (PA) multiplies knowledge about Asia-Europe co-operation by furthering awareness and understanding about ASEM, ASEM and key issues in Asia-Europe relations.

 Aimed at a diverse range of constituencies including the media and the general public, PA’s activities foster greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe.

PA’s core areas of action are:

Media activities
Promoting Asia-Europe networks and co-operation among mass media, and communicating initiatives by ASEF and ASEM, through:

• Programmes dedicated exclusively to media practitioners, aimed at developing the information flow and exchange of perspectives on key issues between policy-makers and journalists. This series of programmes includes:
  - the Asia-Europe Editors’ Roundtable
  - the Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar
  - the ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium

Organised alongside major ASEM meetings, they also contribute to enhancing the visibility of the ASEM process.

• Working with broadcasters, documentary filmmakers and producers to develop audiovisual content, for effective knowledge dissemination and outreach.

• Communication strategies for ASEM projects and events including the development of various types of media co-operation and the selection of international journalists for ASEM projects.

Management and dissemination of Information
Enhancing awareness about Asia-Europe relations by facilitating access to information, through:

• The Asia-Europe Journal which is devoted to interdisciplinary research on Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities.

• The ASEM InfoBoard, the official one-stop online platform for the ASEM process and other matters on Asia-Europe relations. (www.aseminfoboard.org)

• Public outreach through various events such as public lectures on pertinent topics on Asia-Europe relations by eminent speakers.

External communications
Promoting ASEF and developing a coherent external image through:

• Official events to present ASEF activities to external parties as well as co-ordination of official visits by dignitaries from the ASEM partners.

• The ASEF corporate website (www.asef.org): a comprehensive portal on ASEF activities.

• Corporate publications to disseminate information about ASEF activities:
  - ASEFNews, ASEF’s newsletter published every trimester.
  - ASEF Annual Report

• Innovative and customised publicity collaterals to promote ASEF and its activities.

Aimed at a diverse range of constituencies including the media and the general public, PA’s activities foster greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe.

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration department ensures that the day-to-day operations and activities of ASEF are undertaken in an efficient, cost-effective and transparent manner by providing centralised support through:

• Financial planning, budget management, and accounting for ASEF projects and its overall operations

• Office administration, building maintenance and IT

• Human resource management for its multinational staff

• Organising Board of Governors (BoG) and Executive Committee (ExCo) meetings, as well as addressing other corporate, secretarial and administrative matters.
ASEF 7 SUMMIT: ASEM AS AN INTERFACE

October 2008

The 7th ASEM Summit was held in Beijing, China in October 2008 with the theme ‘Vision and Action: Towards a Win-win Solution’. Discussions at the Summit touched on several pressing global issues. The resulting Beijing Declaration on Sustainable Development and the ASEM 7 Statement on the International Financial Situation reaffirmed each country’s commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, climate change, energy security, social cohesion and the economy.

ASEM 7

ASEF complemented the deliberations at the Beijing ASEM 7 Summit by organising a host of events along its sidelines. These projects demonstrated ASEF’s role as an interface between Asia and Europe, injecting civil society input into the highest level of the ASEM process. These projects provided timely assessments and fresh perspectives on issues of global concern, including climate change, the economy, food & energy security and the media landscape.

Through its various sideline events, ASEF also provided visibility and publicity for ASEM through extensive television and print coverage.

ASEF Deputy Executive Director, Amb. Nguyen Quoc Khanh (left) speaking about the Model ASEM project in a specially commissioned video by the All-China Youth Federation.

ASEF Governor for Ireland, Dr. Thomas Hardiman (left) giving his views on Asia-Europe relations in an interview with Al Jazeera News.

Amb. Dominique Girard speaking on ASEM 7 in an interview with Al Jazeera News, just prior to taking office as Executive Director of ASEF.

Public Affairs Director, Sudesh Maniar at a CCTV panel discussion telecast live during the opening ceremony of ASEM 7.

ASEF events included (clockwise) Model ASEM, Dialogue on Art and Climate Change, Connecting Civil Society III: An Asia-Europe Dialogue on Economy and Society, European Studies in Asia Book Launch and Panel Discussion, and the 4th Asia-Europe Editors’ Roundtable. For further information on these projects, please refer to the ‘Projects and Events’ section.

Article in The Business Magazine for Southeastern Europe, Slovenia, 1 December 2008

Article in Ugebrevet Europa, Denmark, 23 October 2008

Article in The Straits Times, Singapore, 1 November 2008

News article in the Straits Timess, Singapore, 1 November 2008

Article in The Business Magazine for Southeastern Europe, Slovenia, 1 December 2008
6th Asia-Europe Film Meeting
24 - 26 & 28 - 31 January 2008
Brussels, Belgium; Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Partners: CineMart of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, RITS Film School, Erasmus Hogeschool Brussels, Vlaamse Gemeenschapcommissie, Vlaamse Overheid.
The meeting engaged participants from Europe and Asia in a dialogue on film issues and encouraged independent film producers to collaborate on the creation of common cross-cultural work in this field. It gave emerging producers the opportunity to create a solid international network and learn more about each other’s contexts and cultures. The first phase of the meeting explored current Asia-Europe exchanges on independent film and the initiatives that help emerging independent film producers to collaborate between Asia and Europe. The second phase included a workshop on Asia-Europe film issues.

A Reading by Paul Durcan
10 March 2008
Singapore
Partner: Nanyang Technological University
Mr Durcan, who received numerous accolades for his literary works (including the Irish American Cultural Institute Poetry Award in 1989 and the Whitbread Poetry Award in 1990) read excerpts of his works from his books ‘O Westport in the Light of Asia Minor’, ‘R. M. S. Titanic’, ‘A Snail in My Prime’ and ‘The Laughter of Mothers’. At the end of his readings, Mr Durcan took questions from the audience on various aspects of his works. During the reception held, the audience had an opportunity to get their copies of his published works signed.

5th Asia-Europe Art Camp ‘re-Vision Bangkok New Media Art and Interactivity’
21 - 30 March 2008
Bangkok, Thailand
Partners: The Art Resource Silpakorn University, School of Fine and Applied Arts of Bangkok University
This edition of the Camp gathered emerging artists to explore the possibility of connecting new media art practices to the relational aesthetic concept. Through lectures, workshops, field and cultural visits, the Camp also developed a platform to promote dialogue for young art students to learn more about each other’s contexts and cultures. Participants were exposed to other ways of approaching their art while being provided with new technical tools shared during the workshop. The Camp culminated in a public presentation where each group shared their concept, thoughts, experience and artistic creations.

Culture360 Public Presentation, Soft Launches and Official Launch
21 April 2008 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
16 May 2008 (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
19 May 2008 (Seoul, Korea)
30 June 2008 (Beijing, China)
Partner: Korean Arts Management Service
The Culture360 portal was first presented alongside the Culture Ministers’ Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in April 2008. It was followed by a series of soft-launches to introduce the public to Culture360. It began in Ljubljana within the framework of the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (ETM) Annual Plenary Meeting, where ASEF facilitated a discussion entitled ‘Think freely on contemporary’. In Seoul, the soft-launch was in the framework of the Asian Performing Arts Forum. Likewise, ASEF facilitated a discussion on ‘Cultural Mapping issues of Asian Performing Arts’. Culture360 was then officially launched in Beijing, alongside the ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting.

6th Asia-Europe Art Camp ‘Ludic Times – The Art of Gaming’
22 - 29 July 2008
Singapore
Partner: School of Technology for the Arts (Republic Polytechnic), The Communication and New Media Programme & National Museum (National University of Singapore), Nanyang Technological University
Organised on the sidelines of the International Symposium for Electronic Arts (ISEA) 2008, the Camp was conceptualised around the theme of psychology of gaming, theories of gaming and the nature of our contemporary ludic culture. The workshops had a number of interesting presentations and was followed by a lecture entitled ‘Serious Games and Pervasive Games’ which exposed the latest research in games beyond the conventional form. A roundtable panel discussed the social impact of games in real life. The Camp participants also attended several activities of the Mini-Summit on New Media Art Policy and Practice and ISEA2008.
I’mPULSE 2008: Cracking Bamboo

15 - 22 September 2008
Hanoi-Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
22 - 28 September 2008
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Jakarta, Indonesia; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Vientiane, Laos


With the Cracking Bamboo International Percussion Festival, this project mixed sounds and cultures through traditional Asian percussion instruments and contemporary music from Europe. Musicians, composers, students and musicologists collaborated through comprehensive music experimentation and performance, with percussion as the connecting link. The participants shared their passion for creating music through workshops, master classes and public performances in the 6 cities which hosted local musicians from the host countries and attracted large audiences. Together with I’mPULSE, CRACKING BAMBOO offered a platform for mutual exchanges between percussionists with ‘modern’ instruments from Europe and their counterparts with traditional Southeast Asian musical instruments.

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Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) General Conference
3 - 5 November 2008
Manila, the Philippines

Partner: National Museum of Philippines

Now in its eighth year, ASEMUS General Conference 2008 explored the possibilities and challenges of the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Museums in Asia and Europe. Possibilities and Challenges: the main goal of engaging its membership will be emphasised to make a real exhibition put up by all ASEMUS members, complementing the existing Virtual Collection of Masterpieces.

Asia-Europe Comics Project

Lingua Comica 3
8 - 16 November 2008
Kyoto, Japan

Partners: Kyoto International Manga Museum

Themed ‘Asia-Europe Dialogue through Comics,’ this project enhanced interest in comic artists to develop projects with an Asia-Europe dimension and promoted the creation of new relevant collaborative works. Participants were first paired into teams representing Asia and Europe to complete a two-month online collaboration with comics as the working medium. They then underwent an intensive residency exchange in Kyoto where team members met and participated in various workshops, master classes and panel discussions. To conclude the project, an exhibition of the new collaborative works was held at the Kyoto International Manga Museum. and information, an attempt to make available exchange that is not limited to the confines of a classroom. In line with the theme ‘Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Museums in Asia and Europe: Possibilities and Challenges,’ the main goal of engaging its membership will be emphasised to make a real exhibition put up by all ASEMUS members, complementing the existing Virtual Collection of Masterpieces.

22nd Asia-Europe Lecture Tour

“The EU through the Eyes of Asia: The Case of China and Hong Kong”

4 - 15 February 2008
Warsaw, Poland; Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; Budapest, Hungary; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Cork, Ireland

Partners: University of Warsaw, Charles University Prague, Austrian Institute for International Affairs, Carnesia University Budapest, University College Cork

The lectures were delivered by Dr. Kenneth Chan of Hong Kong Baptist University, China. They examined the significance of Europe and the EU to the citizens in China and Hong Kong, comparing perceptions regarding the EU among the media, general public and elites in the two locations. The findings were part of a wider study initiated by ASEF and the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCER). At the lecture in Ljubljana, ASEF was represented by Ambassador Helena Zorzo, ASEF Governor to Slovenia. At the lecture in Cork, ASEF was represented by Dr. Tom Hardiman, ASEF Governor to Ireland.

European Studies in Asia (ESIA) Book Launch

“The EU through the Eyes of Asia: Media, Public and Elite Perceptions in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand”

18 April (Singapore)
7 May 2008 (Hanoi, Vietnam)
26 May 2008 (Seoul, Korea)
5 August 2008 (Bangkok, Thailand)
22 October 2008 (Beijing China)
25 September 2008 (Tokyo, Japan)
15 October 2008 (Hong Kong, SAR, China)

Partners: National Centre for Research on Europe, University of National University of Singapore, National Centre for Research on Europe (School of Social Science and Humanities, Vietnam National University), The Delegation of the European Commission in Vietnam, EU Research Center (Korea University), the SNV-ASEP Centre for EU Studies, Interdisciplinary Department of European Studies (Chulalongkorn University), Centre for European Studies (Rennes University), Asia University, the Delegation of the European Commission in Japan, European Studies Centre (Hong Kong Baptist University), the Delegation of the European Commission in Hong Kong

This publication presents the findings of the first two phases of ASEF’s ‘EU through the Eyes of Asia’ project, a major academic collaboration initiated in partnership with the National Centre for Research on Europe – University of Canterbury, to measure media, public and elite perceptions of the European Union (EU) in the Asian countries of the ASEM process. The analysis provides feedback that can assist in policy-making, suggesting recommendations to the EU, third countries and the media. It will hopefully help to develop a wider awareness of the international knowledge about the perceptions of the EU, specifically in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

Education and Academic Co-operation
European Studies in Asia (ESIA)
Phase III Interim Workshop & Methodology Workshop
7 - 9 May 2008 (Hanoi, Vietnam)
1 - 2 August 2008 (Singapore)
Partners: School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Vietnam National University
At the Hanoi workshop, the researchers discussed the challenges in producing the previous phases of the study and planned the next phase. It also offered further training in data collection and compilation. The Singapore workshop tracked the progress of the teams and addressed issues that had arisen following the Hanoi workshop. The teams from the three countries presented their findings from the media analyses collected from their respective countries and examined comparative cases of images of the EU in terms of economic and political framing, social, environmental and developmental framing, and the framing of the visibility of ASEM.

ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN)
7th Annual General Meeting
31 July - 4 August 2008
Hanoi, Vietnam
Partners: Embassy of the United Kingdom in Vietnam, Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Vietnam, CSR Vietnam Forum
The meeting was attended by participants from ten batches of ASEF University, ASEF’s summer school programme. The meeting began with a conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which presented a framework for understanding CSR, especially its implementation in Asia, and good corporate strategies that have effectively manifested social responsibility. The planning session presented the report on the alumni’s past and ongoing projects. Participants also agreed to pursue the registration of the Network as a non-profit international organisation (ASIEL) under Belgian law, which will elevate the Network to an institutional status. Furthermore, the session on the ‘Future of ASEFUAN’ resulted in a common agreement to actuate a larger group of network members in the Network’s activities. Finally, the Executive Committee for the term 2008-2009 was elected.

1st ASEM Rectors’ Conference
27 - 29 October 2008
Berlin, Germany
Partners: Free University of Berlin, German Rectors’ Conference, ASEAN University Network, European University Association, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
This inaugural conference, entitled ‘Between Tradition and Reform: Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads’, saw higher education institution leaders from both regions discussing higher education policy issues like the management of universities, quality assurance in higher education, and trends on education and research cooperation between Asia and Europe. Participants agreed upon a set of recommendations to Ministers of Education of ASEM countries, encompassing key elements of the ASEF higher education cooperation efforts. The ASEF Education Hub (AEH) highlighted ASEF’s higher education cooperation efforts through an exhibition of projects from all four ASEF departments geared towards Asia-Europe dialogue.

ASEF Education Hub (AEH) for Lifelong Learning
4th ASEM Lifelong Learning Conference and Annual Meeting Exploring Frameworks for Supporting Lifelong Learning
25 November 2008
Beijing, China
Partners: School of Education at Peking University, Danish School of Education at Aarhus University
Researchers, managers and policymakers discussed and presented new research results in lifelong learning and education reforms on institutional financing, organisational innovations, legislative support and conceptual frameworks for lifelong learning. Subsequently, the annual meeting of the ASEF Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning and the Research Networks was held in Beijing on the 29-27 November 2008. The meeting gathered ministers, deans and heads of departments of the Hub member universities. Advisory Board members, the Hub’s research coordinators and ASEF representatives, created a dialogue between policy makers and researchers and enhancing the relationship between research and policies on lifelong learning.

AEC Education and Academic Co-operation
Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)
7th AEC-NET Conference
12 - 16 December 2008
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
This conference, ‘Achievements, Visibility and Sustainability of the Asia-Europe Classroom Network’, allowed participants to join a network of dynamic Asian and European teachers and educators who share similar interests in promoting intercultural learning and maximising the use of information and communications technology in education. More than 30 AEC Projects were conceptualised for 2008/2009. On the sidelines of the conference, AEC Awards were conferred to the Project Groups that have developed the most outstanding online learning platforms or applications in 2007/2008 and the Excellence Awards Certificates were conferred to groups that advanced the principal objectives of the AEC-NET initiative.
Environment and Sustainable Development

25th Asia-Europe Lecture Tour: ‘Pursuing Sustainability in Asia: Challenges, Approaches and Good Practices’
21 - 30 May 2008
Kaunas, Lithuania; Tallinn, Estonia; Riga, Latvia; Dublin, Ireland; Brussels, Belgium

Partners: Vytautas Magnus University, Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm School of Economics, Institute of International and European Affairs, AidCo (European Commission)

Ms. Ella Antonio (President of Earth Council Asia-Pacific) focused on the experiences of selected Asian countries in mainstreaming sustainable development issues into overall development policies. Ms. Antonio also highlighted the role of governance and capacity building in ensuring that the policies are not only well conceived but well implemented and monitored as well. The lecture in Brussels was organised twice: one open to the public and another held specifically for EC officials. This session was arranged to ensure that EC officials and the lecturer would be able to have deeper and more meaningful discussions.

of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for sustainable energy and prospects for Asia Europe energy co-operation. The outcomes were submitted to the ASEF governments before the 7th ASEF Summit in Beijing and have been acknowledged by ASEF leaders in the Chair's Statement of the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting. In the Statement on Sustainable Development, the leaders also emphasised their commitment to take further actions to strengthen cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and energy security.

Artists, scientists, cultural practitioners and climate change thinkers exchanged views on the environment and climate change. They explored approaches to these issues, strengthened links between traditional and new artistic practices and scientific findings, along with intercultural approaches. The public forum examined how both regions perceive climate, how it is reflected in art and best practices on tackling it. Interactive workshops explored concrete projects to deal with the existing environment. In addition to an exhibition of the works of some of the artists, a vocabulary booklet on climate change was produced to create cross disciplinary cultural awareness on climate change.

4 December 2008
Poznan, Poland

The event, entitled ‘Towards integrated mitigation and adaptation measures in agriculture’, focused on the impact of adaptation and mitigation measures on agricultural production and identified potential synergies of an integrated approach. Experts from Asia and Europe exchanged a number of measures that can have a mutual beneficial impact, helping both regions to adapt to climate change and at the same time cut emissions from the agricultural sector, which amounts to almost 15% globally. The presentations were followed by a panel that addressed a number of questions about the challenges and possibilities of implementing such an integrated approach.

Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum) 6th Roundtable
18 - 19 September 2008
Dublin, Ireland

Themed ‘The Energy Sustainability Challenge: Fueling Cooperation between Asia and Europe’, the roundtable focused on how to build a sustainable energy society, the role of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for sustainable energy and prospects for Asia Europe energy co-operation. The outcomes were submitted to the ASEF governments before the 7th ASEF Summit in Beijing and have been acknowledged by ASEF leaders in the Chair’s Statement of the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting. In the Statement on Sustainable Development, the leaders also emphasised their commitment to take further actions to strengthen cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and energy security.

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4 December 2008
Poznan, Poland

Thematic Network on Human Security Global Warming and Climate Change:
Implications for Human Security (Visions from Asia and Europe)
15 - 17 October 2008
Madrid, Spain

This conference examined the implications that global warming and climate change have for human security, as well as the different perspectives from Asia and Europe about this issue. A consensus shared among the participants was the urgent need to respond to climate change combining adaptation measures (adapting to its impacts and coping with its effects) and mitigation ones (reducing the emissions and, therefore, reducing the rate and magnitude of the changes). Attempts must also be made towards the implementation of cooperation at international, regional and local levels into a more institutionalised framework.
The workshop examined existing safeguard and oversight bodies, the relationship between the police and the community, oversight mechanisms in both regions and their role as a mediator between the constabulary and local communities. Present at the workshop were participants from oversight institutions such as Ombudsman Offices in Asia and Europe, representatives from police forces and national police commissions, international and regional institutions (such as relevant bodies in the Council of Europe, the OSCE, INTERPOL etc.), international and national NGOs, field practitioners in the area of policing, representatives from police academies, the academe and the media.

Human Rights and Governance

23rd Asia-Europe Lecture Tour: ‘Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice Series Transnational Justice and Human Rights’
5 - 17 March 2008
Strasbourg, France; Brussels, Belgium; Budapest, Hungary; Bucharest, Trnava, Slovakia

Partners: Robert-Schmidt University, Human Rights Without Frontiers, European Institute for Asian Studies Brussels, the Human Rights Students’ Initiative of the Central European University, the Media Monitoring Agency, VIA URO-Center for Public Advocacy

This series of lectures was delivered by Neou Kassie (President of the Peace and Development Institute, Cambodia) and focused on approaches of transnational justice in Cambodia and the present status of such a process. Mr. Kassie addressed issues such as Cambodia’s unstable past, the genocide under the Khmer Rouge, The UN brokered peace treaty and processes since 1985 as well as the general elections in 1993. He also discussed the impact of setting-up the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and other means or mechanisms available to address human rights abuses.

This conference was held in conjunction with the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). The workshop presented perspectives from civil society and governments of both regions, as well as international organisations. The participants shared their experiences of the difficulties of implementing legal frameworks of protection and debated the existing obstacles that need to be overcome. ASEF also sponsored ten participants from Asia and Europe, mainly from Central Eastern European countries and the newer Asian ASEM member countries, to participate at IACC.

Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice Series: ‘Workshop on Protecting the Whistleblowers – Asian and European Perspectives’
30 October - 2 November 2008
Athens, Greece

This conference brought together experts from the members of the A2I/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific and observer countries from the region, OECD member countries, leading enterprises and businesses associations of Asean, civil society, multilateral and donor organisations. ASEF supported this important initiative to formulate strategies to help fight corruption in the business, government and civil society sectors across the region by facilitating the participation of expert civil society participants. This was a good follow-up on the workshop ‘Protecting the Whistleblowers – Asian and European Perspectives’ held in conjunction with the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Greece.
ASEM Youth Dialogue: 2nd Asia-Europe Interfaith Dialogue

23 - 27 June 2008
Bandung, Indonesia

Partners: Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Affairs, Central Board of Nahdlatul Ulama in Indonesia

This event gathered youth representatives from churches, faith and youth religious organisations and networks from 23 ASEM countries, with various profiles and experiences in interfaith dialogue. The aim of the Dialogue was to encourage participants to deepen their knowledge on interfaith challenges and get encouraged to take action in the process of reaching a better interfaith understanding on local and international levels. By the end of the project, the ‘Bandung Statement’, which was the outcome of the work and discussions that had taken place during the event, was read out at the closing ceremony of the event.


4 - 5 September 2008
Singapore

Participants critically examined the topic, acknowledging that the term ‘troubled state’ is problematic, as it is usually imposed on a state by external parties and therefore highly subjective. They later arrived at agreed criteria to define a troubled state and used it to address the consequences of such states. Participants noted that both ASEAN and the EU have a distinctive approach towards troubled states: the ‘ASEAN Way’ of constructive engagement, and the EU’s policy of humanitarian aid and targeted sanctions. Participants suggested alternatives to existing approaches, stressing that regional organisations need to play a leading role in the resolution.

13th Talks on the Hill: ‘Ethnicity, Race & Politics’

11 - 12 December 2008
Singapore

This meeting was organised against the backdrop of resurgent ethnic tensions in Belgium and Malaysia, two ASEM countries with comparable experiences of historical co-existence of ethnic and linguistic communities. The retreat brought together experts in ethnic politics from the Asia-Europe community, facilitating an interactive exchange on the interaction of ethnicity and politics in Malaysia and Belgium, and drawing lessons from the diverse experiences of various countries that participants brought to the discussion. The meeting urged stakeholders in society to see ethnic and cultural diversity as positive and enriching, with a concerted effort to focus on issues of common significance.

26th Asia-Europe Lecture Tour Stories from Borders and Stories of Borders

3 - 13 November 2008
Athens, Greece; Sofia, Bulgaria; Bucharest, Romania; Nicosia, Cyprus; London, The United Kingdom; Belfast, Northern Ireland


The Lecture Tour by Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree (Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development of Mahidol University, Thailand) shared true life stories from different countries both in Asia and Europe, critically reflecting on the concepts of borders and frontiers both from legal and political perspectives. Borders can easily be created from within oneself and one’s own society. Hence, gender and ethnic discrimination have little to do with sex or nationality. At the end of each Lecture, Dr. Petcharamesree and the audience discussed similarities and differences of approaches and perspectives on the topic borders and frontiers between the two regions.

Asia-Europe Young Leaders’ Symposium: 1st Asia-Europe Young Urban Leaders Dialogue

10 - 15 November 2008
Madrid, Spain

Partner: Madrid Global (International Strategy and Action Office of Madrid’s City Council)

Three objectives were pursued during the dialogue: to strengthen cultural links and mutual understanding by providing participants a platform for informal dialogues on key issues in Asia-Europe relations; to create human networks among young leaders in the two regions; and to encourage participants to foster a common vision of Asia-Europe cooperation for the development of future ASEM initiatives. The Dialogue culminated with the adoption of the Madrid Declaration that encompasses the conclusions of the Dialogue along with the participants’ interest in creating an informal network of young urban leaders that would address urban issues in the Asia-Europe context.
24th Asia-Europe Lecture Tour: ‘An assessment of EU Policy Towards Asia’
24 March - 3 April 2008
Bangkok, Thailand; Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR, China; Singapore
Partners: Interdisciplinary Department of European Studies, Chulalongkorn University; the European Studies Programme, Hong Kong University; the International Institute of Macau; the University of Macau, East Asia Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr. Fraser Cameron, Senior Advisor of the European Policy Centre and European Institute of Asian Studies, Brussels, examined the evolution of the EU’s policy towards Asia since 2001 and its objective of “strengthening its political and economic presence in the region commensurate with its global weight following enlargement”. The lecture evaluated the increased dialogue between the two regions in specific fields as well as the level of awareness that Asia has of the EU and what can be done to boost this.

Workshop
The future of ASEM
4 April 2008
Singapore
Partners: Institute of Asian Studies, the China Institute of International Studies
The workshop was designed to provide ASEM leaders and the Summit organisers with some reflections and recommendations regarding the future of ASEM. In pursuit of this aim, the organisers brought together 15 distinguished diplomats, scholars and NGO participants, all seasoned ‘ASEM watchers’ and practitioners, as well as experts in other forms of inter-regional relations. Workshop participants critiqued their discussions on methods to improve the ASEM process, and came out with a set of recommendations (please see ASEF website).

Asia-Europe Workshop Series 2007/08
‘Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations: European and Asian Perspectives’
30 May - 1 June 2008
Konstanz, Germany
Partners: European Alliance for Asian Studies, University of Konstanz
The workshop was one of the six selected workshops under the Asia-Europe Workshop Series which offers grants to academic institutions to organise workshops on themes of common interest. This particular workshop was linked to the international research project ‘Value of Children (VOC) and Intergenerational Relations’ funded by the German Foundation (DFG).

Book Launch: ‘The Impact of Ageing – A Common Challenge for Europe and Asia’
25 January 2008
Singapore
Experts Dr. Gabriele Sinigoj and Professor Gavin Jones of the Asia Research Institute presented their findings on the ‘Impact of Ageing’ and their data on demography, economy and society, law, social welfare, and biomedicine. The book describes both mutuality and divergence in the progress of ageing in both regions that will transform the world by 2050. The editors were joined by panelist Professor Klaus Woller, (Ambassador of Austria to Indonesia and Singapore) to discuss on the book and also to address issues pertaining to the impact of ageing.

Public Lecture
A Central European Perspective on Asia
28 February 2008
Singapore
Partner: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
Mr Ryszard Schnepf, the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland, spoke about Central Europe’s strategic and economic interests in engaging Asia. In doing so, he traced how these interests have evolved in the last few years in light of the accession of Poland and other Central European countries into the European Union. He also discussed what is and will be the Central European contribution to the European foreign and trade policy towards Asia in general and Southeast Asia in particular. Mr Schnepf also highlighted the growing potential for Asian engagement in the rapidly-growing Central European region.

Symposium on the book by Kishore Mahbubani
The New Asian Hemisphere
3 July 2008
Singapore
With ASEF alumnus Mr. Asad Latif (Institute of South East Asian Studies), ASEF organised a Symposium on the controversial and extensively-reviewed book ‘The New Asian Hemisphere’ by senior diplomat and writer Prof. Kishore Mahbubani. The book deals with the rising political and economic influence of the East, and the response of the West to this phenomenon. ASEF invited three scholars, Asst. Prof. Alan Chong (National University of Singapore), Mr. Shafqat Munir (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies) and Amb. Jørgen Ørstrøm Møller (ASEF Governor for Denmark) to comment on the book, with Prof. Mahbubani responding to their presentations.
Connecting Civil Societies (CCS)III: An Asia-Europe Dialogue on Economy and Society

17 - 18 October 2008
Beijing, China

Participants were divided into five Working Groups: Education; Socio-cultural concerns; Global multi-lateral governance; Development, Risk and Environment; and Law and Legal Institutions. They debated the research agenda and came up with a number of policy proposals. Besides this, the members of the Network agreed to reinforce the Asian regional studies component among Asian partners, in addition to the European Studies component among Asian partners, and correspondingly, to reinforce the European Studies component among the European partners. They also acknowledged the need to recruit new Asian and European partners, and strengthen expertise on ASEAN and South Asian aspects of regionalism.

Thematic Network on Peace and Conflict Studies: Advisory Board Meeting and Annual Conference

18 - 19 November 2008
Banda Aceh, Indonesia

At the board meeting, members presented the different projects and activities, as well as developments of the Network during the year. The meeting ended with exchanges of ideas on potential new initiatives for 2009. Encompassing the theme of ‘Locals, Outsiders and Conflict,’ the conference focused on migration conflicts and aimed to exchange experiences and expertise in a view to bolstering harmonious relations between Local Communities and Migrants in Asia. The keynote speech addressed the resolution of conflicts between ‘Locals’ and ‘Outsiders’.

6th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium

1 - 2 June 2008
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Partner: European Journalists Centre

Focusing on the topic ‘Interfaith Reporting in the Advent of New Media – Exercising Rights with Responsibilities,’ the Colloquium was organised in conjunction with the 4th ASEF Interfaith Dialogue. Participants worked through various concepts, aiming to convert ideas into functional suggestions that can be used by the media and organisations interested in the issues of interfaith dialogue. The Colloquium’s Moderator presented the findings at one of the ASEF Interfaith Dialogue’s working groups. Those recommendations were accepted in full by the Interfaith Dialogue’s delegates who subsequently encouraged for implementations for promoting mutual understanding and respect in the Amsterdam Statement of Interfaith Dialogue.

Thematic Network on the Studies of Regionalism in the ASEF Context Research Workshop and Annual Meeting

28 - 29 November 2008
Venice, Italy

Participants were divided into five Working Groups: Education; Socio-cultural concerns; Global multi-lateral governance; Development, Risk and Environment; and Law and Legal Institutions. They debated the research agenda and came up with a number of policy proposals. Besides this, the members of the Network agreed to reinforce the Asian regional studies component among Asian partners, in addition to the European Studies component among Asian partners, and correspondingly, to reinforce the European Studies component among the European partners. They also acknowledged the need to recruit new Asian and European partners, and strengthen expertise on ASEAN and South Asian aspects of regionalism.

Policy and Dialogue on New Media Art: Mini-Summit on New Media Arts Policy and Practice

24 - 26 July 2008
Singapore

Partner: International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), European Union, ArtsNetworkAsia, TheatreWorks

This summit developed an overview of the key issues impacting new media arts practice and created a policy framework and action points. In close cooperation with the International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA 2008), the Mini-summit encompassed crucial topics such as: ambient intelligence, location-based media, iterative design cycles, academic research and creative communities, open sources and open networks, the role of small independent new media labs, media education, and the relationship between media and civil society. An artist presentation evening and the final recommendations and conclusions presented at ISEA 2008 were both open to the public.
Lecture Tour: ‘Perspectives on Freedom of Expression in Asia and Europe’

6 - 13 November 2008
Nakhon Pathom, Thailand; Vientiane, Laos; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Jakarta, Indonesia
Partners: Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development of Mahidol University, Thammasart University, Faculty of Law and Political Science of the National University of Laos, Suaram Malaysia, Cambodia Centre for Human Rights, Indonesia Popular Governance Institute, Indonesian Institute of Sciences

This lecture Tour focused on the recommendations from the 8th Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights, for which Prof. Kevin Boyle (Human Rights Centre University of Essex, United Kingdom) and Prof. Cherian George (School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) acted as Main Rapporteurs. They discussed the norms relating to freedom of expression and its permissible limitations, its relations to other rights, as well as democracy and rule of law, with special focus on challenges to freedom of expression particularly with regard to the media, including the internet and emerging actors (such as bloggers and ‘netizens’).

4th Asia-Europe Editors’ Roundtable
22 - 23 October 2008
Beijing, China
Partner: All-China Journalists’ Association

The roundtable, on the sidelines of ASEM 7, addressed the impact on, and the role of, Asian and European media organisations within the context of enhanced global inter-connectedness. The ‘Globalised Media: Between Unification and Fragmentation’ session highlighted the changing role of journalists as a major impact resulting from the globalisation of media. ‘The Media’s Role in Promoting Environmental Awareness: A Global Role for the Media?’ session saw participants agreeing that ‘green media’ in particular are in a political and influential position and hence need to be strengthened.

Asia-Europe Partnership in the Field of Training: Asia-Europe Training for Trainers
2 - 9 July 2008
Predeal, Romania
Partners: Romanian National Agency for Supporting Youth Initiatives (ANSIT), Romanian Youth Council (CTR)

The training gathered participants and trainers aged between 18 and 30 years old, selected for their solid track records in the area of youth training, capacity building and non-formal education that gained them recognition from national and international organisations in their countries. The frameworks of the training course gave participants an opportunity to explore the concepts of intercultural learning and cultural diversity and to exchange best practices, as well as to build training expertise. These allowed them to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them implement international training projects involving young people from Asia and Europe.

ASEF Youth Partnerships 2008: 2nd Networking Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Conference
27 - 31 January 2008
Seoul, South Korea
Partners: Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service, International Workcamp Organization

The 2nd Networking Asia-Europe Young Volunteers conference (NAYEV) was a follow-up of the first NAYEV Conference that took place in June 2006 in Vietnam. The participants exchanged information and expertise regarding voluntary activities and followed up on projects between and within the two regions. Following a general introduction of the topic, the different networks that were attending the Conference – namely the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service Organisations, the Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NViDA), the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) and ASEF – gave presentations on their work.

Youth

European Studies in Asia (ESIA)
1st Young Academics’ Workshop
1 - 5 September 2008
Bruges, Belgium
Partners: National Centre for Research on Europe, College of Europe

Entitled ‘How is the EU Perceived in Asia: Media, Public and Elite Perceptions,’ this workshop trained European studies academics on how to utilise the unique dataset generated from the ‘EU through the Eyes of Asia’ project in their own research work. The proceedings involved intensive training from ESIA coordinators, a session on public opinion surveys, presentations to the European Parliament and a European Commission News Briefing. Each participant will produce an 8000-word paper, the best of which will be published in the Asia Europe Journal. The participant will also receive a fellowship at the University of Canterbury.
The experimental phase simulated an encounter with a completely new culture. The practical phase saw participants applying their own knowledge in volunteering and intercultural learning, while using the results achieved in the first part of the training in a constructive manner. Participants presented their respective organisations to each other and built the foundation for future projects and partnerships. This resulted in the creation of several follow-up projects.

The 2008 newsletters focused respectively on: international relations, intercultural dialogue and the ASEM 7 Summit in China. The newsletter also features new ASEF publications, news coverage that indicates public interest in ASEF activities, as well as recent and upcoming happenings in ASEF and ASEM.

The Journal is devoted to publishing interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities. Fields of interest include various aspects of bilateral relationships, comparative studies, as well as Asian area studies from a European perspective and vice versa. Each volume is intended to focus on one major subject such as security, historical experiences, cultural perceptions, civic rights, gender issues, regional integration, development, media or other areas of bi-regional interest.

This book presents different perspectives on energy security of European and Asian countries, as well as the regional perspectives. Within this context, it analyses Russian energy nationalism, EU common energy policies, pipeline regional perspectives. Within this context, it analyses Russian energy nationalism, EU common energy policies, pipeline.
Editors: Katelijn Verstraete and Neelima Reddy
The 5th edition of Pointe to Point, the Asia-Europe Dance Forum explored the relationships between tradition and contemporary in urban and rural contexts, as well as the interaction between dance and music. Twelve choreographer-dancers and six composer-improvisers from Asia and Europe participated in this challenging twelve-day project which was held in Beijing and Guizhou, China. The project aimed to provide an avenue for new inspirations and to instigate questions. The film Amazing Grace by Dutch film documenters attempted to capture the impression and density of moments through observation.

Editors: Jerneja Rebernak
The fifth edition of the Asia-Europe Art Camp explored new media art practices through the Relational Aesthetic concept where twenty-two emerging artists from Asia and Europe merged interactivity and localities with new media art through public performances in Bangkok. This publication captures the process of the Art Camp’s fieldworks where the participants worked through social and cultural urban spaces, seeing the artwork as an encounter between the viewer and the object. The publication also includes a DVD of the Art Camp activity and artists’ fieldwork interventions.

Editors: Kenji Yoshida and Brian Durrans
This book is the result of a traveling exhibition 'Portraits from Asia and Europe,' organised by ASEF and the Asahi Shimbun Museum and supported by over 100 institutions. The exhibition was created through collaboration between cultural museums and art museums in 18 countries in Asia and Europe, who are members of the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS).

Editors: Peter Ryan, Martin Holland, Silvij Jera
This volume brings together eminent European Union scholars from both Europe and Asia in a timely initiative to reflect on the record of European Studies in Asia, evaluate the current state of affairs, as well as to look for best practices to guide future developments. The publication is a partnership between: the Asia-Europe Foundation, EU Institute in Japan, Kansai, and the National Centre for Research on Europe, with the support of the European Commission and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Editors: Peter Ryan, Martin Holland, Silvij Jera
This publication reflects the works of 20 young photojournalists from Asia and Europe who participated in the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers in Manila, the Philippines on 21-27 August 2006. The photographs highlight Urban Youth, which was the focus of the fieldwork photo assignment in Manila. This Forum was organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation, World Press Photo Foundation (WPPF) and the Philippine Center for Photjournalism (PCP).

For information on ordering ASEF Publications, please visit the Publications’ section of our corporate website, www.asef.org.
ASEF’s primary website serves as a portal to current projects and announcements, while also maintaining an archive of completed activities and projects. Visitors to the website find comprehensive information about ASEF as an organization and its funding, coupled with calls for applications for upcoming projects, information about ASEF publications, news articles and links to partner organizations.

ASEF is mandated by the ASEM partners to oversee the administration of the ASEM InfoBoard, a one-stop information service for ASEM affairs and other matters regarding Asia-Europe relations. It has served as a primary source of information on the ASEM process, and helped to increase the visibility of ASEM to external public.

Launched in December 1998, the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) is ASEF’s main platform to forge contacts among secondary and high schools, teachers and students in Asia and Europe. Through its activities, the AEC-NET provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges. It is a cyber-classroom shared by students and teachers to build stronger bi-regional networks and partnerships in the course of implementing common online projects and participating in face-to-face exchanges.

The Asia-Europe Museum Network allows for the sharing of museum collections of mutual interest, the enhancement of professional competence, the development of document repositories, the hosting of joint exhibitions, as well as the stimulation and empowerment of cooperation between Asia and Europe.

This website is dedicated to the Asia-Europe Journal, ASEF’s research-based periodical. It provides the visitor with further background information about the journal, such as information about subscriptions, the focus of upcoming issues, table of contents or call for papers. It also offers free access to some articles. The AEJ eNewsletter contains information about AEJ background news and special promotions, table of contents for the upcoming issue and call for papers.
CulturE-ASEF
www.culture-asef.org
CulturE-ASEF aims to support cultural exchange between Asia and Europe by guiding interested parties to systematic directories of annotated links of websites with information in the field of visual arts in Asia and Europe. The concept of the CulturE-ASEF website was developed by the editors of Universes in Universe and brought to ASEF Cultural Exchange.

Database on Education Exchange Programmes (DEEP)
http://deep.asef.org
The Database on Education Exchange Programme (DEEP) is ASEM’s comprehensive online portal on universities, student exchanges and scholarships in Asia and Europe. DEEP allows 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 the user’s country of origin and the 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; and
- exchange experiences of studying in Asia and Europe.

Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations
www.civildialogue.asef.org
This website is dedicated to the Asia-Europe Foundation’s Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations programme which was established to address contentious and sensitive cultural and inter-civilisational issues. This website serves as a platform for information-sharing on the various projects within this programme.

European Studies in Asia (ESIA)
http://esia.asef.org
The ESIA website is a fully interactive website for European studies academics, institutions and network to share and collaborate. This unique online platform is a resource of information, debate and research on European studies in Asia and Europe. It contains papers, articles, conference and publication announcements, vacancies and an extensive database of leading European studies institutions and networks in the two regions. The eMonitor is the quarterly electronic newsletter of the ESIA network with a readership of 8,000 in Asia, Europe and internationally.

Synergy Europe-Asia Images
http://sea-images.asef.org
The Synergy Europe-Asia website (SEA-Images) is for the promotion of film exchange between Asia and Europe. Since its launch in January 2004, SEA-Images aims to provide a unique pool of information on Asian film industry and its independent sector, classified data on the diverse European film industry and useful information for independent film makers from Asia and Europe. The Sea-Images eNewsletter includes news, call for entries and relevant articles.

For subscription information for the e-newsletters mentioned, please visit the ‘Resources’ section of our corporate website, www.asef.org.
**Summary of Expenditure**

**Source of Funding for Projects**

### 1 January – 31 December 2008

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<tr>
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<th>SGD</th>
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<td><strong>Public Affairs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>5,745,342</td>
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Exchange rate as at 31 DEC 2008

1 USD - SGD1.44
1 EURO - SGD2.03

### Sources of Funding for Projects

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SGD</th>
<th>EURO</th>
<th>USD</th>
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<td>11,575,049</td>
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<td>8,023,548</td>
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Exchange rate as at 31 DEC 2008

1 USD - SGD1.44
1 EURO - SGD2.03
ASEF would like to acknowledge the ASEM governments that have seconded staff to our organisation for the year 2008, the contributions received are placed under the following funds in accordance with the terms specified by the contributors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Contributions Received</th>
<th>Contributions Received</th>
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Total Contributors

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<th>Contributions Received</th>
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The contributions received are placed under the following funds in accordance with the terms specified by the contributors:

- Operating Fund: Contributions received are for the operating costs of the Foundation.
- Endowment Fund: Contributions received are invested, with the income earned being used to finance activities of the Foundation.
- Trust Fund: Contributions received are utilized for the operating needs of the Foundation.

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<th>SPONSORS</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
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<td>Sabah Science Secondary School</td>
<td>7th Asia-Europe Classroom Network Conference</td>
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<td>Sabah State Education Department</td>
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<td>Sanac National Secondary School</td>
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<td>SENKO Group</td>
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<td>Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation</td>
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<td>TheatreWorks</td>
<td>Mini Summit on New Media Art Policy and Practice</td>
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<td>Training and Education Institute of the Madrid Local Government</td>
<td>Asia/Europe Young Leaders Symposium: First Asia/Europe Young Urban Leaders Dialogue</td>
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<td>Vlaamse Overheid</td>
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