Javier Solana speaks at 4th Asia-Europe Lecture

26 July 2000, Singapore

Giving his speech at the 4th Asia-Europe Lecture on the Future Relations between the European Union and Asia was HE Dr Javier Solana, EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Dr Solana explained the three important developments in Europe today: the challenges and opportunities of EU enlargement, monetary union and the new economy in the old continent, and how the European Security and Defence Policy intends to respond to global security challenges. He also explained how Europe and Asia can and should act together in the global world. With the ASEM 3 Summit taking place in October, Dr Solana’s lecture was timely.

"People want to exchange ideas, to learn together, and to support those both in their own country and elsewhere who are unable to support themselves." - Javier Solana

The lecture was the fourth in the Asia-Europe Lecture series organised by ASEF to provide prominent officials, scholars, scientists and other leaders of civil society with a platform to address an informed audience on trends and issues pertaining to Asia-Europe relations. Previous speakers include HE Mr. Jacques Santer, then President of the European Commission, Mr. Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, and HE Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

A total of 150 personnel from the diplomatic corps, academia, think-tanks, business community and the media attended the lecture.

The lecture was co-organised with the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, in association with the European Policy Centre in Brussels. It was supported by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To view Dr Solana’s lecture, visit http://www.asef.org.
ASEM leaders will meet in Seoul, Korea for the third ASEM Summit on 20 - 21 October 2000. To celebrate ASEM 3, ASEF is delighted to present a dynamic programme ranging from forums to film festivals. In coordinating the ASEF events around the summit, ASEF aims to actively engage ASEM participants in further dialogue and encourage deeper interaction between them.

**Asia-Europe Folk Festival**

1 - 10 September, Kyongju, Korea

Co-sponsored by Kyongju World Culture EXPO 2000 Organising Committee

Held at Pomun Lake Resort, the Asia-Europe Folk Festival features performances by folk troupes such as the Art Ensemble of Kunming City (China), Mar Blava (Spain), Gentra Madya (Indonesia) and Hannat Ja Heikit (Finland).

Each nation shares its experience in folk cultural diversity by taking turns to perform twice a day for over the ten-day period.

**European Film Festival**

14 - 17 October, Seoul, Korea

Co-sponsored by Cineplex, Inc.

ASEF organises its first European Film Festival. The Festival follows on the success of Asian film festivals in Europe that ASEF has co-sponsored.

Approximately 50 European films from countries such as France, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands will be screened at Megabox Cineplex during the Festival. This initiative hopes to pave the way for future collaboration between Asia and Europe in the field of film production and dissemination.

**Launch of AEH-EARN Website**

17 October, Seoul, Korea

Co-organised with the Korean Ministry of Education and supported by Ajou University and Korea University

ASEF has created an AEH-EARN Website in order to make known the scholarships offered by Asian and European universities which are participating in this new network.

The web-based network aims to promote academic exchanges between Asia and Europe. Interested universities can join the network by using the on-line registration facilities on the Website.
Asia-Europe Young Artists’ Painting Exhibition
18 October - 23 November, Seoul/Kyongju/Kwangju, Korea
Co-organised with Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) Media Enterprises Ltd.

The Exhibition features the finalists of the Asia-Europe Young Artists’ Painting Competition. It showcases the artists’ interpretation of the theme The New Millennium in My Dreams.

The first exhibition will be held in the Seoul Arts Centre in Seoul before travelling to Kyongju and Kwangju, Korea.

Asia-Europe Art Exhibition of Cultural Fusion
18 - 22 October, Seoul, Korea
Co-organised with ASEM 1 “The Road of Sun” Executive Committee (Association for Promoting Renewal of Japanese Culture and Traditional Industry) and OPUS1, Korea

In celebration of the cultural closeness that Asia and Europe are working towards this century, ASEM co-presents an art exhibition around the theme Creation of a New Millennium.

In addition to the exhibition, there will be a complementary dramatic performance on 19 - 20 October 2000.

The exhibits reflect the rich traditional influences of Asia and Europe’s cultural mosaic

Asia-Europe Dramatic Performance
19 - 20 October, Seoul, Korea
Co-organised with ASEM 1 “The Road of Sun” Executive Committee (Association for Promoting Renewal of Japanese Culture and Traditional Industry) and OPUS1, Korea

About 10 performers from ASEM countries will bring to audiences a music and dance performance The Saviour Le Mu.

The performance communicates the interdependence of man and nature without words, for this harmonization of man and his environment is a responsibility of man that transcends language. The international cast includes performers from countries in the ASEM family, including Gani Abdul Karim from Singapore, Hiroaki Omote from Japan and Laula Losada from Spain.
ASEM 3 Festival Orchestra
19 October, Seoul, Korea
20 October, Kyeonggi-do, Korea
Co-sponsored by Sejong Centre for Performing Arts

The ASEM 3 Festival Orchestra comprises 100 musicians, two from each ASEM country and 50 Korean musicians. Joined by a renowned conductor and soloists from Asia and Europe, the Orchestra will perform at the prestigious Sejong Centre for Performing Arts.

The Asia-Europe programme will feature Sung-Hwan Lee's arrangement of Korean traditional music, "Ul oui Uugoong" (Infinity of Soul), Beethoven's Triple Concerto, and Brahms Symphony No.1. The soloists include Korean violinst Dong Suk Kang, and French pianist Pascal Devoyon.

Orchestra Nazionale di Santa Cecilia
20 - 21 October, Seoul, Korea
Presented by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy
Under the patronage of ASEM

The Orchestra is performing three concerts in celebration of ASEM 3 under the baton of Maestro Myung-Whun Chung.

Part of their repertoire includes Brahms Violin Concerto in D major Op. 77 and Beethoven Symphony No. 5 in C minor Op. 67.

Creating new cultural bonds at ASEM 3

Asia-Europe Forum on Culture in the Cyber Age
23 - 25 October, Kyongju, Korea
Co-organized with Kyongju World Culture Expo 2008 Organizing Committee and supported by the European Commission

The forum examines how the different cultural and social contexts of each ASEM country may result in different interpretations and different levels of acceptance of the features of the Cyber Age.

How can this new community be involved in the current cultural exchange between Asia and Europe? Do "cyber-bonds" exist and have these bonds resulted in a unique "cyber-culture"? These are a few of the pertinent issues discussed at the Forum by leading professionals from cultural institutions, government institutions, academia, and IT.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Book Launch

Asia and Europe: Selected Essays and Speeches
by Tommy Koh

This collection of essays and speeches by Professor Tommy Koh was written and delivered by Professor Koh in his capacity as the Executive Director of ASEF. It contains his thoughts on the three pillars of Asia-Europe relations: politics, economics and civil society.

In his book, Professor Koh gave his assessment on some of the key trends shaping the emerging world order and some crucial events affecting the transformation of Asia and Europe.

The book launch was hosted by Kinokuniya Book Stores in Singapore on 21 September 2000. Approximately 100 people attended. They represented the diplomatic community, media, businesses and colleagues from ASEF.

The book is available at all major bookstores in Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
Third Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights
19 – 20 June 2000, Paris, France

For two days, 60 participants comprising NGO representatives, officials and academics from 24 ASEM member countries debated on controversial Human Rights issues.

The key issues discussed in the seminar were Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information, Humanitarian Intervention and the Sovereignty of States, and the Right to a Healthy Environment.

These themes were articulated by keynote speakers from Asia and Europe and further debated in workshop sessions, where participants worked in smaller groups. Discussion was intense and constructive, and participants benefited from the high-quality exchange of views.

This was the third in a series of ongoing informal seminars, which aim to improve the dialogue between Asia and Europe in addressing human rights issues in an informal and congenial setting. The first seminar was held in Sweden and the topic was Human Rights and the Rule of Law: Administration of Justice. The second was held in Beijing and dealt with themes pertaining to Asian and European Values, Minority Rights as well as the Right to Education.

This seminar was co-organised and co-sponsored by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden, France, China and ASEM with the support of the European Commission.

Change in ASEF Management

Mr Arnaud d'Andurain has replaced Mr Duncan Jackman as Director of Intellectual Exchange. Prior to his secondment to ASEF, Mr d'Andurain was with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was in charge of Asia at the Centre d'Analyse et de Prévision.

ASEF wishes Duncan and his wife, Janet, a warm farewell

Mr Arnaud d'Andurain, the new Director of Intellectual Exchange
The Way Ahead for the Asia-Europe Partnership

10 – 11 July 2000, Seoul, Korea

In the preparation period for the third ASEM Summit, ASEP co-organised a conference in partnership with a prominent think-tank, the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP).

The conference aimed to harness ideas for greater Asia-Europe cooperation for the ASEM 3 Summit agenda.

The Conference gathered 61 ASEM experts, including policymakers, academics and businessmen, to address some of the major issues relevant to the ASEM process. The session topics were The Reform Process in Asia and Europe, ASEM and Political Dialogue, and ASEM and Trade.

The participants re-examined the ASEM process since its inception, its goals and its achievements. Recognising the contribution ASEM had made to the emergence of a stronger East Asian voice, the participants suggested that the time had come for ASEM to help establish a new political dialogue based on mutual respect between Europe and Asia, that will encompass sensitive issues such as globalisation, human rights and the environment.

Also a topic of discussion was the future direction of ASEP, including how a renewed mandate and financial commitment on the part of the ASEM members can further strengthen ASEP’s role in the ASEM process.

ASEF: Connecting Asia and Europe 1997 – 2000 is a comprehensive account of the projects ASEP has implemented in its first three years. It charts ASEP’s progress in the pioneering years and gives a broad view of ASEP’s contribution to the important enterprise of forging a new and solid partnership between Asia and Europe.

ASEF Celebrates ASEM 3

To celebrate the biennial Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Seoul in October, ASEP is presenting a dynamic programme ranging from forums to film festivals with the joint efforts of Asian organisations and their European counterparts. Find out how ASEP is celebrating this important summit from ASEP’s special ASEM 3 publication called ASEP Celebrates ASEM 3.