FOCUS

ASEF-IPS Public Lecture
by EU Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten
5 April, Singapore

Speaking to a large audience at the public lecture organised by ASEF and the Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore, Commissioner Chris Patten pledged the European Union’s continued strong interest and engagement in the Southeast Asian region.

The EU was setting out its foreign policy towards the East with respect to the great diversity among the many countries in the region. In addition to the economic support and advice Europe was already offering to East Asian nations, he commented that opening new European Commission offices in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur later this year was another sign of commitment.

Commissioner Patten was the last Governor of Hong Kong, from April 1992 till its hand-over to China in 1997. In 1998, he published "East and West," a book on Asia and its relations with the rest of the world. He shed positive light on both Sino-ASEAN relations and the future of Hong Kong in the hands of China.

(L–R): ASEF Executive Director, Amb. Delfin Colomé and Commissioner Patten
**This workshop was the ninth of the series ASEF has been organising with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) [www.aibd.org.my] since August 2001.**

Apart from documentary, other types of TV programmes were studied such as children TV programmes, youth magazines and Internet broadcasting.

Nezha Cohen, Producer, Television Audiovisuel Cinema pour Tous, TACT Production (France) [www.tact-production.com] led the five day workshop attended by 12 TV producers from Brunei [www.rib.gov.bn (Radio TV Brunei)]. The workshop covered the making of a documentary from the script and production analysis to the shooting, editing and marketing. The focus of the documentaries was on preservation and promotion of Cultural Heritage.

**Over three days, 60 museum scholars and professionals from 20 ASEM countries gathered to define the agendas of the workshops planned up to 2004.**

The conference took place in the newly opened National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden [www.mev.nl]

The workshops covered the following subjects: documentation and photo collections of lost cultural heritage, monuments, and sites; scattered collections of Asian minorities; exchange of Asian and European techniques for preservation and conservation; exhibition tour of Asian perceptions of Europe and vice versa; virtual exhibition of Asian and European collections. In line with the forthcoming meetings included in the action plan of ASEMUS (Asia-Europe Museum Network), a list of pilot projects was produced.

For more information, visit: www.asemus.org.
Over forty of the past participants of the ASEF University convened in Bali, Indonesia, to establish officially the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN).

The gathering provided an occasion for those participating to draft a constitution for ASEFUAN thereby formalising the network. In addition, the members engaged themselves in a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Hadi Soesastro, Executive Director of CSIS (Centre for Strategic and International Studies), Indonesia and Zainal Mantaha, Director of People-to-People Exchange, ASEF: Prospects and Challenges for Asia-Europe Relations. The grouping of young undergraduates in the form of ASEFUAN is a direct result of ASEF's efforts to bring the non-governmental sectors into the ASEM process.

For more information, visit: www.asef.org/asef-uni/

More than one hundred participants from youth organisations in Asia and Europe attended the three-day workshop.

Under the theme, “Bridging the Digital Divide Between Youth in Asia and Europe”, the workshop consisted of expert presentations by practitioners working in the field of ICT. Hands-on workshops on topics such as portal and content development, virtual and physical centres, ICT partnership programmes and technopreneurship were conducted by practitioners from Malaysia’s National Information Technology Council (NITC). The event concluded with new Asia-Europe partnerships embarking on IT initiatives at the end of the forum.

The event was co-organised with the Asian Youth Council, and enjoyed the strong support from the Malaysia and Selangor Youth Councils, the Malaysian Ministry for Youth and Sports, the Selangor State Government, and the Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board, and the NITC. The latter created a web site on the workshop, which can be viewed at http://www.infocomm.nitc.org.my. The NITC also took the opportunity to launch its KAYNET initiative, a web-based hub aiming to strengthen ties between youth from different countries.
Representatives from 12 youth organisations at the international, regional and national level met in Shah Alam, Malaysia, to review the current Asia-Europe Youth Co-operation (AEYC), and to discuss future steps and tangible projects under the banner of the AEYC for the year 2002.

The meeting served to consolidate the steadily-growing youth network that to date, holds the membership of 72 youth and youth-serving organisations from the two regions and has organised 10 projects following its inception during the Asia-Europe Youth Forum held in Brussels in May 2000. The network has served to bring together over 290 young people from different youth organisations in working in the two regions.

The AEYC Working Group, composed of core members from the 6 founding international and regional youth platforms, and joined by members from 6 international and national youth organisations, discussed and endorsed specific projects for the year 2002; the highlight being the Asia-Europe Youth Festival, a series of events to be held in Denmark in September 2002 coinciding with the ASEM IV Summit, and the 4th Asia-Europe Youth Camp.

Other projects endorsed by the Working Group included the Asia-Europe Training for Trainers and the Asia-Europe Training Course for Youth Leaders 2002, and initiatives to promote information and resource exchange between youth organisations in the AEYC, such as the Asia-Europe Volunteers Exchange 2002.

Jointly organised with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) in Brussels, and sponsored by the European Commission, the forum covered topics such as: ‘Involving Civil Society in the ASEM Process’ and ‘Propositions for the Agenda of ASEM IV’ in preparation for the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in September.

Representatives from trade unions, think-tanks, international NGOs, as well as private-sector entrepreneurs, officials, and academics met to reflect and exchange views on how the Asia-Europe civil society dialogue could be intensified and usefully connected to the ASEM process. The focus of the discussions was on the social dimension and the need to address the social issues at the inter-regional level.
ASEF Governor for Thailand, Amb. Vitthya Vejjajiva, succeeded the Spanish Governor Amb. Camilo Barcia as the Chair of the ASEF Board of Governors during the meeting in Spain. Educated in the U.S. and the U.K., Amb. Vejjajiva is the former Permanent Secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry.

Between 1981 and 1991, Amb. Vejjajiva was appointed as Ambassador of Thailand to Canada, Belgium, and the U.S.A. He had also served in the Royal Thai Embassy in the U.K.

The Chairmanship rotates every year in May.

The Board of Governors is the decision-making body of ASEF and convenes twice a year to consider new projects and to discuss budgetary matters. The next BOG meeting will be hosted by Malaysia in late October 2002.

This conference, the second in a series of two meetings, was co-organised by ASEF, together with the Danish Institute of International Affairs (DUPI) and the Institute for International Relations (IIR), Vietnam.

The two-day meeting touched on the broad issues of transnational crimes such as the trafficking of people across borders, the drug trade and money laundering. Amb. Omar Halim, Executive Director of Non-Aligned Movement Centre (Indonesia), Bertil Lintner, Senior Correspondent of Far Eastern Economic Review based in Bangkok, and Prof. Ernesto Savona, Director of Research Centre on Transnational Crime (Italy) were some of the prominent scholars and government representatives, who made presentations on the chosen topics covering: Transnational Crimes and Conflict, Specific Transnational Crimes: Assessment and Responses, Transnational Financial Crime and Corruption as well as Prospects for Co-operation under ASEM.
Co-organised by ASEF and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO with the support of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the roundtable saw 16 intellectuals discussing mutual understanding among different cultures and peoples on the occasion of the World Cup.

Among major figures attending the meeting were renowned culture critic Guy Sorman, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea James Lancy, former Foreign Minister of Korea Han Seung-joo, and Foreign Minister of East Timor Jose Ramos-Horta.

Four Masters of Photography – Keiichi Tahara (Japan), Horst Wackerbarth (Germany) [www.horst-wackerbarth.com], Marie-Laure de Decker (France), Tay Kay Chin (Singapore) [www.eastpix.com], conducted workshops on Art Photography, Fashion Photography, Photography and Documentary, and Photojournalism, and shared their experiences with a group of young photographers.

Public talks were also organised in collaboration with the Singapore Art Museum and the professional help of the European House of Photography-City of Paris [www.mep-org.fr], Alliance Française of Singapore and Goethe Institut, Singapore.

Special film presentation "Vietnam", by Marie-Laure de Decker

Special session between Horst Wackerbarth and the selected young photographers from Europe and Asia

Keiichi Tahara’s talk on Art Photography at Singapore Art Museum
B
tween the Sun and Imaginary Light

From time to time, I am torn between white light and black light.

For me, white light represents feelings. It captures mood and emotion. A landscape that has been illuminated and carved by light. Black light is an inner light. It triggers the imagination and stimulates creation based on past experience and acquired knowledge. It is what you would probably call “memories”. There is an incompatibility between these two lights, a gap. This gap between white light and black light is accentuated by another contrast: the contrast between the light of Kyoto and of Paris; between Japan and France.

The Silk Road vastly multiplied opportunities for cultural exchange; over the years, different cultures and civilizations intermingled as a result of this trade. During expeditions, people breathed a different air, saw a different light, experienced different times and were finally etched upon the earth. Vestiges abandoned to history accumulated to create a series of strata that became an apt depiction of our history – strata are also stacks of time and light. In each sedimentary rock, there are traces of bygone eras and lights. We are there too, on the surface of one of those layers.

As for me, how should I go about tracing the fluctuations that occur within? I am a foreigner in France having left my native country when I was very young. I vacillate now between Asia and Europe. How did Europe transform my perceptions? How will my perceptions, my senses, my heart and my thoughts continue to evolve? And how will they adapt to this new atmosphere?

The light that I discovered here in France 20 years ago was totally unlike the light I had known in Japan. The sky there was so pure and transparent that it seemed to me I could discern a cosmic space in its depths: right there, so close!

At the end of a 16-hour flight, the white light that had shrouded us disappeared completely, becoming sharp and piercing. This striking change in atmosphere absolutely enthralled me, and it’s probably because of this new light that I decided to stay in France. Still, it took me a long time to get used to this new atmosphere. It was as if I had to wait until my body could soak up the pervading light, and everything I had inside me, all my reflexes, would be transformed into “memories” or relics. New light comes pouring in over these old memories and leaves new strata of traces.

Memories I have – of myself, my family, of blood and the human race – gradually merge and accumulate within me. These different layers are transparent, like stacks of glass. It seems to me that from day to day, memories are what link the light of cosmic space to the inner light of consciousness. These memories remain nebulous and overlapping, like the Möbius strip where the front is also the back, representing a world of chaos.

To order the publication, refer to: www.assouline.com
Discussing the theme, Common Challenges for Asia and Europe in a Globalising World, young leaders gathered in Berlin for the Sixth Annual Symposium.

This AEYLS was organised by ASEF together with the Research Institute of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. Ludger Volmer, Minister of State, delivered a keynote address during the participants' visit to the German Federal Foreign Office.

The participants, a mix of accomplished young leaders in the fields of business, journalism, politics/administration, and academia, arts and culture, gathered to debate over political, security, economic and socio-cultural challenges in the Asia-Europe environment.

Dr. Emmanuel C. Lallana, Executive Director of e-ASEAN Task Force spoke of Globalisation and Digital Divide: Winners and Losers and Prof. Dr. Norbert Walter, Chief Economist and Head of Deutsche Bank Research, made a presentation during the session on The Role and Importance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in a Globalising World.

The Annual Asia-Europe Workshop Series sponsored by ASEF and the Strategic Alliance for Asian Studies encouraged academic researchers to submit proposals to be implemented in the form of workshops focussing on a variety of issues affecting both regions.

The criteria of proposals were determined by considerations of interregional and multilateral importance and the applicants were requested to focus on contemporary topics concerning both Asia and Europe in a comparative perspective. Most importantly, the workshops had to be organised by an Asian partner and European partner, to stimulate dialogue between both regions.

The Workshop Series secretariat received thirty proposals covering a wide range of topics, of which the chosen six workshops will each be rewarded a financial grant of US$15,000.

The Selection Committee Meeting was held at ASEF and the committee consisted of Amb. Delfin Colomé (ASEF), Prof. Jean-Luc Domenach (Tsinghua University), Prof. Chaibong Hahn (Yonsei University), Prof. Lily Kong (National University of Singapore), Prof. Hanns Maull (University of Trier), Prof. Shamsul A.B. (University Kebangsaan Malaysia) and Prof. Wim Stokhof (International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University).

The selected workshops will take place between September 2002 – September 2003.
An international panel of scholars and diplomatic figures, including East Timor Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Ramos-Horta, participated in a roundtable discussion yesterday in Seoul and examined the World Cup's potential to unite nations and overcome human differences.

At the “World Cup Roundtable on Promoting at Understanding among Cultures and Peoples” held at the Hilton Hotel, 16 prominent figures identified cultural stereo-typing and poverty as impediments to cross-cultural understanding as well as acknowledged the symbolic value of international sporting events like the World Cup. The event was organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU).

Following the opening address by Delfín Colomé, executive director of ASEF, the talks were mediated by Yersu Kim, Secretary General of KNCU.

With the threat of global terrorism and a divided multi-ethnic world as the backdrop of the discussion, participants sought solutions to the lack of inter-cultural understanding and the constructive role the World Cup may play in international communication.

Some participants emphasized the effectiveness of sports in erasing economic and cultural differences even if it is just on the playing field.

“It creates a utopia, a rare occasion where the poor can win against the rich, and where the U.S. is not dominant,” quipped Jacques Attali, former governor of the Bank of Europe.

Other speakers emphasized the symbolic and real value of Korea and Japan’s co-hosting the World Cup games. Tadashi Yamamoto, president of the Japan Centre for International Exchange, recalled the dramatic moment in the opening ceremony when the national flags of Korea and Japan were placed side by side, and called it a “victory” and a “triumph”, which symbolized the increase in contact between Japanese and Korean NGOs and scholars resulting from the co-hosting by the two long-time rivals.

On the other hand, Donald Gregg, former U.S. ambassador to Korea, expressed mixed views on the effectiveness of sports in solving international conflict. He cited U.S. “ping-pong” diplomacy with China during the Cold War as a successful example of sports’ power to negotiate, but also noted the brutal sports matches between England and Ireland as an example of when sports can become a “surrogate war” between hostile countries.

Prof. Han Sung-joo of Korea University agreed that sports can both unify and divide people. “There's a galvanisation of nationalism in sports”, he said, and it can have a divisive effect, like the anti-American sentiments aroused among Koreans when speed skater Kim Dong-sung was deprived the gold medal at Salt Lake City last February. But the loyalty generated in team sports can blur national identities as well. “When Senegal won the game last night,” he said, “their coach Sreco Katanec, who is French, hugged his team with all his emotions and strength, and no one would say he betrayed his nationality.”

Other speakers tempered the optimistic view of effectiveness of sports in political arena. Ramos-Horta, Noble laureate for peace, was more sceptical of the role of sports in bridging different societies. “Sports can be helpful, but leadership, intellectuals, and education are what are essential to end the cycle of violence in the world”, he said.

Ra Jong-yil, Korean ambassador to the United Kingdom, added that the failure to persuade North Korea to participate in the World Cup games must be remembered in the midst of celebration. In similarly sober remarks, he recalled television news images of a destitute boy assembling a soccer ball in a Third World country, and emphasized the need to be mindful that “this occasion of festivity does not become ‘an occasion for glossing over the problems (the world) has.’”

Other participants in the round-table included Adolf Ogi, former president of Switzerland and special adviser of the U.N. Secretary-General; James Laney, former U.S. ambassador to Korea; Prof. Pan Guang from the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences; Guy Sorman, French writer and social commentator; Prof. Wim Stokhof, director of the International Institute for Asian Studies in the Netherlands; Prof. Rosemary Foot of St. Anthony's College at Oxford, Prof. Hahn Chai-bong of Yonsei University; Prof. Han Sung-jin of Seoul National University; and Prof. Hans Koechler, president of International Progress Organisation in Austria.
Logo Wanted for Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The new ASEM logo should enhance the visibility of the ASEM process.

It should represent visually the state of Euro-Asian dialogue and understanding and be inspired by the age-old “East meets West” motive. The logo will be displayed on banners promoting materials and documentation related to ASEM meetings (starting with ASEM V in 2004) and other ASEM events.

As an open competition, entries are welcome and eligible from teams of at least two citizens from any ASEM member state (Austria, Belgium, Brunei, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam), with at least one fellow ASEM citizen from the other continent for a joint proposal.

The winners will be identified by a jury decision and publicly announced in early 2003:

- 1st Place: 6,000 Euros
- 2nd and 3rd Places: 1,500 Euros each
- 12 pre-selected in the first round: 300 Euros each

By virtue of their submission, participants assert that they hold the copyright of their designs. Prize winners accept the cessation of these rights to the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) at no further cost.

Entries, either drawn by hand or printed on A4-size paper, should reach ASEF by 15 December 2002, at the latest, at the following address:

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
Attn: Director of Public Affairs
No. 1 Nassim Hill Singapore 258466

Asian Comments

ASEM 4 Cultural Programme in the Centre of Copenhagen

19 – 21 September 2002

The 72-hour ASEM 4 culture programme, Asian Comments, will unfold itself all over the city centre of Copenhagen alongside the Asia-Europe Business Forum, Asia-Europe NGO Forum, and Asia-Europe Youth Festival, creating the mood for the biennial ASEM 4 Summit, which will take place during 22 – 24 September this year.

Throughout the three-day period, the city will be constantly steeped in Asian light and images, and live performances will create a vibrant atmosphere. The programme will be integrated into the daily rhythms of the city, and everyone passing through central Copenhagen during this period will inevitably be attracted by the intense and diverse impressions from contemporary Asian cultures.

The Danish Centre for Culture and Development (DCCD) is organising the programme in collaboration with the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and the City Council of Copenhagen, along with other sponsors.

For more information, visit www.asem4culture.dk

Asia Urbs Programme – Third Call for Proposals

The Asia Urbs Programme was designed by the European Commission as one of several measures to help improve the level of mutual awareness and understanding between Asia and the European Union.

It is an initiative in decentralised co-operation bringing together urban local governments in both regions to improve the pressing problems facing towns and cities in the 21st century.

The local government partnerships are supported by grants from the EC of up to 65% of the total project costs, to enable them to share ideas, approaches, skills and know-how in addressing one or more of a variety of key areas. The projects should focus ultimately on poverty alleviation and include some capacity building for the organisations involved. They should be replicable and sustainable, and involve the local community – the ultimate beneficiaries – as much as possible.

For more information, visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-urbs or email europeaid-asia-urbs@ccc.eu.int
"The role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) was highly commended in this area. In terms of strengthening co-operation in social issues, leaders identified co-operation in education and human resources development toward overcoming income disparities as particularly necessary."

From Diplomatic Bluebook 2001, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

"On top of the progress made in the political and economical pillars, we can welcome the achievements reached in the socio-cultural sphere. The existing University and academic exchange programmes together with the furthering of contacts between our youths allow for a better mutual understanding. In this field, the Asia Europe Foundation is, undoubtedly, one of our main assets."

From a speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Josep Pique, at the Opening of the Fourth Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of ASEM, Madrid, 7 June 2002
**LOOKING AHEAD**

**6 July**
Singapore
ASEF Foundation
Stone-Laying Ceremony

**13 – 23 July**
Bangkok, Thailand
Asia-Europe Puppet Festival
Co-organised with Office of the National Cultural Commission, Thailand

**28 July – 11 August**
Bangkok, Thailand
6th ASEF University
Co-organised with the Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University

**1 August**
Singapore
Europe Reporting Asia and Asia Reporting Europe
A panel discussion session within News World Asia 2002 Conference

**12 – 14 August**
Manila, Philippines
Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, within the scope of Cinemanila 2002
In partnership with Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines and Cinemanila International Film Festival

**16 – 24 August**
Elsinore, Denmark
Search: Hamlet, an Asia-Europe Performing Arts Experience
Co-produced by Face to Face, Denmark and Theatre Works, Singapore. Supported by ASEF

**30 August – 20 October**
Copenhagen, Denmark
Text & Subtext: Contemporary Asian Women Artists Exhibition
Organised by Earl Liu Gallery, LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore, Nikolaj Copenhagen Contemporary Art Centre and supported by ASEF

**11 – 14 September**
Tampere, Finland
2nd Asia-Europe Classroom International Teachers’ Conference
Organised with the National Board of Education and the Education Committee of the City of Tampere

**16 – 18 September**
Tampere, Finland
A Gender Agenda: Asia-Europe Dialogue 2nd Conference
Co-organised with Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) and the Coalition of Finnish Women’s Association for Joint Action (NYTKIS)

**19 – 21 September**
Copenhagen, Denmark
Asian Comments – A prelude to the 4th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 4) Summit
With the support from the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish Center for Culture and Development (DCCD), and other sponsors

**19 – 23 September 2002**
Copenhagen, Denmark
A World Without Borders? Asia-Europe Youth Responses to Globalisation
Co-organised with various youth and volunteer organisations

Info Fair on Youth Organisations in Asia and Europe
Co-organised with the Youth for Development and Co-operation (YDC)

Symposium on Youth Responses to the Challenges of Globalisation
Co-organised with the Danish Youth Council (DUF)

**July – Sept 2002**

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**ASEM**

**5 – 6 July**
Copenhagen, Denmark
ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting

**17 July**
Bali, Indonesia
8th ASEM SOMTI (Senior Officials Meeting on Trade and Investment)

**18 – 19 September**
Copenhagen, Denmark
ASEM 4th Economic Ministers’ Meeting

**19 – 20 September**
Copenhagen, Denmark
7th Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF)

**23 – 24 September**
Copenhagen, Denmark
4th ASEM Summit

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