The 7th ASEF University was organised with Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), the Fundació Centre d'Informació i Documentació Internacionals a Barcelona (Fundació CIDOB) and the Casa Asia.

It covered the theme, “Regionalism in Asia and Europe and their Significance for Asia-Europe Relations.”

The two-week scholarship programme offered a unique opportunity for 35 selected participants to get acquainted and to discuss the implications of regionalism for Asia-Europe relations.

A Public Lecture was incorporated into the AU7 programme, and Dr Joan Colom, Vice President of the European Parliament, was invited to give his views on the forthcoming EU enlargement. He recalled that the EU Parliament still needs to debate and to approve the accession treaties for the ten new EU member states by 2004.

Past ASEF University sessions have been held at venues alternating between Europe and Asia: Reutlingen University (Germany), Beijing University (China), Lund University (Sweden), National University of Singapore (Singapore), Fundacao Oriente/Convento da Arrabida (Portugal), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), and most recently at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). The 8th ASEF University is scheduled for June-July 2003, to be hosted by Yonsei University (Korea). Those interested, please contact Laurent Frideres for details: laurent@asef.org
**Young parliamentarians representing ASEM countries and the European Parliament convened on San Giorgio Maggiore Island in Venice for the Fourth ASEF YPM.**

This event was a joint collaboration between ASEF, the Camera dei Deputati, Consiglio Regionale de Veneto and the Fondazione Giorgio Cini. The parliamentarians discussed in plenary and working group sessions, "Mobility and Globalisation: International Migration and Local Economic Development." Rubens Ricupero, the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) delivered a keynote address while Roberto Maroni, the Italian Minister of Labour and Social Policy made the welcome remarks. Statements made at the Conference were widely quoted in the Italian and international media.

Young parliamentarians will again convene during the Fifth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting scheduled to be held in Guilin, China in October 2003. For more information, contact Cathy Pabalan at cathy@asef.org.

**Organised with New World Order Forum (St. George's House, Windsor Castle) with the support of ASEF, the Forum is the second of a four-part series.**

The Forum gathered 26 high profile participants from the governments, non-governmental organisations and think-tanks, securing the opportunity to address public policy issues, which focused on the global security efforts of three key international bodies, namely the UN, the EU and ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum). Amb. Vithya Vejjajiva, Chairman of the Board of Governors of ASEF, Wang Min, ASEF Governor for China, Amb. Delfin Colome, Executive Director of ASEF, and Bertrand Fort, Director of Intellectual Exchange were among the participants.

The follow-up will take place on 21 – 23 September 2003, as part of the Asia-Europe Dialogue on Cultures and Civilisations. This Forum will focus on the theme of "A cultural divide? Appreciating one another better."

For more information, please refer to: www.new-worldorder.org or write to bertrand.fort@asef.org

**This Seminar, co-organised with the Cultural Centre, University of Malaya with the support of the National Arts Academy (Ministry of Culture, Arts and Information, Malaysia) gathered more than 30 experts from 16 ASEM countries to present different facets of Epics: epics as influences for history, literary heritage, visual arts and performing arts.**

Poster, © University of Malaya, Cultural Centre
The different presentations and discussions not only stressed the richness and variety of epics in Asian and European countries but also led to the awareness of identification, preservation, documentation and dissemination of Epics in Europe and Asia. The Seminar was chaired by Prof. Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof, ASEF Governor for Malaysia. The follow-up publication is expected out in Spring 2003.

Four new Governors joined B.O.G. and welcomed at the 12th Board of Governors meeting held over two days in Kuala Lumpur.

• Datin Tan Bee Yong (Governor for Brunei) is currently the non-resident Ambassador to Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden at the Brunei Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
• Amb. Paul Reitze Brouwer (Governor for the Netherlands) has previously served as Ambassador to Ouagadougou, and Jakarta, and now Athens.
• General Vasco Rocha Vieira (Governor for Portugal) was the last Governor of Macau from 1991 till December 1999 when Macau was handed over to China.
• Ion de la Riva (Governor for Spain) is the Director of Casa Asia located in Barcelona since 2001.

The two new directors at ASEF were also introduced: Chulamanee Chatsuwan (Thailand) for the Cultural Exchange and Bertrand Fort (France), who is to lead the Intellectual Exchange department. The BOG discussed the future orientation of the projects to be implemented by ASEF, while also addressing the financial sustainability of the Foundation.

The Board of Governors (BOG), made up of 26 representatives, is the decision-making body of the Asia-Europe Foundation and the venue alternates between Asia and Europe. The next BOG meeting will be hosted by Germany in Berlin during 8 – 10 May 2003.

ASEF Cultural Grants were awarded to three best young artists participating in the Shanghai Biennale 2002: Yang Fudong (China), Angela Bullock (UK) and Jong Yeondoo (Korea).

The grants will allow each awardee to implement an artistic project with an Asia-Europe dimension.

The artists were selected by the Curatorial Committee of the Shanghai Biennale 2002 and the project was made possible thanks to the partnership between ASEF and 4th China Shanghai International Arts Festival.

With the theme “Urban Creation”, Shanghai Biennale 2002 set up a stage for discussions on the fast changing cultural pattern and life style at an unprecedented speed induced by the accelerating urbanisation and the modern urban architecture which are transforming the daily scenes in China.
This event was organised by Thessaloniki International Film Festival and supported by ASEF, through its ASEF Cultural Grants programme.

Six films by young promising film directors were selected for this special Asian Vision programme:

- *Blue* by Hiroshi Ando, Japan  
- *Unknown Pleasures* by Jia Zhangke, China  
- *Let’s Not Cry* by Min Byoung-Hun, Korea  
- *Seafood* by Zhu Wen, China (Hong Kong)  
- *Whispering Sands* by Nan T Achnas, Indonesia  
- *Blissfully Yours* by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Thailand

Two of these six film directors were awarded during the final ceremony: Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Thailand for “Blissfully Yours” (Golden Alexander – Best Full Length Film Award) and Min Byoung-Hun for “Let’s Not Cry” (Artistic Achievement Award).

Website references:
- Thessaloniki Film Festival at [http://www.filmfestival.gr](http://www.filmfestival.gr)  
- Apichatpong’s website at [http://www.kickthemachine.com](http://www.kickthemachine.com)


Co-organised with the Casa Asia and the Associacio de Mestres Rosa Sensat, this project brought together 32 educational specialists to brainstorm on the current methodology and techniques used to educate the younger school children of Asia and Europe today.

For the brainstorming session, participants discussed four topics: school exchange programmes; the virtual classroom; multiculturality and local identities; and towards a meeting point. A number of ideas, techniques and plans were proposed with the view to create synergy between the education systems of Asia and Europe.
This workshop was an introductory session to the International Congress on Philippine-Spanish Architecture.

It mainly focused on how during the colonial past Spanish architecture interacted with the local Philippine architecture.

As this kind of interaction can be also found in many other Euro-Asian models (Portugal in Macau and Malacca; the Netherlands in Indonesia; France in Indochina, Britain in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, etc.), ASEF decided to support an introductory workshop, dedicated to the wider picture of Asia-Europe architectural interaction, in which participants from both regions could examine the different models and prospect subsequent actions to be taken. A publication of this event will be out in 2003.

"The past does not rule us, upholds Steiner, what rules us is the image that we have of it. Culturally speaking, a pure, unadulterated nation does not exist; we are all mestizos. [...] Other parts of Southeast Asia have also been scenarios of encounter between Europeans and Asians. Its outcome has led to the emergence of contaminated cultures where elements of one and another used to suffice for occasional needs. And perhaps, this is precisely, what Culture is all about.

Architecture is one of the fields where this cultural symbiosis is patent. If Steiner is right, the conservation and in-depth study of the vestiges of the past is not a caprice of the scholars but an important duty to every nation", by Javier Galvan, Director, Instituto Cervantes, Manila (partner with ASEF for the workshop).
This Seminar gathering European and Asian experts was organised by ASEF with AMAPI (Intellectual Property Association of Macau) and IEEM (Institute for European Studies of Macau).

Two sessions were held:

I. Developing Local Cultural Industries: Economic Value and Copyright Protection. An overview of the huge opportunity of development was given, which this sector can represent for the countries, provided they respect the basic conditions. Lessons were drawn from success stories and discussed as models along with comparative international assessments.

II. Dividing the Economic and Financial Risks: Models for Public-Private Partnerships. This focused on the partnership with private initiatives in order to reduce financial risks.

Lisbon will be the venue of a second seminar on Local Cultural Industries in autumn 2003. It will discuss human resource development and job creation.

Website references:
http://www.asef.org
http://www.ieem.org.mo

"The most compelling reason we cannot just stand by and let the cultural industry be ruled by the usual market principles is that if we do, the "cultural diversity" - the essence and the beauty of the culture & civilization is very much likely to be lost in no time. It is a beautiful irony that even a dominant culture can maintain its beauty only when it co-exists with less dominant cultures. I trust that many of us would rather close their eyes and shut their ears than live in a community where there is no diversity therefore no choice. Diversity also means creativity. History shows us that whenever the creative activity of man was at peak, invariably, there was diversity of culture."  
(Kim Sung-Chul, ASEF Deputy Executive Director, at the opening of the Workshop)
The workshop, organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) [www.aibd.org.my] with the help of ASEF, gathered 13 radio professionals from 8 Asian countries.

In all of the countries selected for this project, radio plays a much larger role in educating, informing and entertaining the audience than television. Moreover radio is a key instrument to propagate and preserve local culture, be it music, languages or local traditions.

One participant stated: "As an engineer without much background on archiving, the course has provided the necessary background understanding of the procedure for archiving and the technology available to ensure that the archivists and engineers work hand-in-hand to set up a digital archive system in the next 2 to 3 years".

The aim of this workshop was thus to sensitise and train decision-makers and professionals in radio stations on the importance of radio archiving and make them familiar with the digital archive system and how to implement it.

Wilfried Solbar, AIBD, was the programme manager of this event and Gert Wurmbach (former Deutsche Welle Radio Training Centre trainer), the guest consultant.

BOG Update
Amb. Luz del Mundo has relinquished her position as the ASEF Governor for the Philippines as of 31 December 2002. The new Governor is Amb. Jaime J. Yambao, who is currently the Assistant Secretary at the Office of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Staff Update
We welcome Sol Dorotea Iglesias as she joins ASEF as the Project Executive of Intellectual Exchange department, effective 2 January. She is a Filipino, and has completed a master's programme in political science from the National University of Singapore.
Asia Europe Journal

The first issue of Asia Europe Journal, a quarterly academic journal published by ASEG, is expected to be out by end of January.

The journal is devoted to the interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities. The various aspects of bilateral relationships, comparative studies, Asian studies from a European perspective, or European studies from an Asian viewpoint will be covered. Each volume is intended to follow one major subject such as security, historical experiences, cultural perceptions, civic rights, gender issues, regional integration, development, ethnic minorities or other areas of bi-regional interest.

Contents of Asia Europe Journal, Volume 1/2003:
1. Pascal Lamy. The Asia Europe Partnership
2. Lee Kuan Yew. Asia and Europe after 9/11
3. Jan Kavan. EU Enlargement and its Implications for EU Asian Relations
5. Gerd Langguth. Asian Values Revisited
6. Lee Cheuk Yin. Do Traditional Values Still Exist in Modern Chinese Societies?
7. Taufik Abdullah. Asia and European Colonialism
10. Philomena Murray. An Asia Pacific Response to the EU: Australian Elite Perceptions
11. Paul Lim. Analysing the ASEM Process
12. Book Reviews (Wiessala/Mahbubani/Backman)

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or visit: http://www.springer.de

The next edition of the AEJ (2/2003) will focus on regionalisation in Europe and in Asia. For enquiries, e-mail info@asef.org

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“This reaching-out process [of Europe to Asia] has gained ground with the dialogue between the European Union and Asean, as promoted by such organizations as the Asem (Asia-Europe Meeting) and the Singapore-based Asef (Asia-Europe Foundation).” (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 4 November 2002)

“Nacida como una universidad de verano, la Universidad ASEF se ha convertido, durante los últimos años, en el acontecimiento más importante que organiza la Fundación y ha pasado a celebrarse dos veces al año, una vez en cada continente (este año ya se celebró en Bangkok el verano pasado). La VIIª edición de la universidad reúne unos cuarenta de los estudiantes más brillantes de las universidades de 25 países implicados y este año tratará de primar el Regionalismo en Asia y Europa y su importancia para las relaciones entre asiáticos y europeos.” (El Mundo, 11 November 2002)

“Dialogue between regions, cultures and societies is a vital instrument in achieving a better and balanced world, says Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) executive director Delfín Colome. ASEF’s capacity in strengthening dialogue between regions was now a model to follow in efforts to promote better world understanding, he told Bernama after receiving a US$100,000 cheque from Malaysian High Commissioner to Singapore, Datuk Hamidon Ali at ASEF’s headquarters here today.” (Bernama Agency, 18 November 2002)

“...a great amount of considerable work seems to have been produced in a quiet way by various expert groups. In particular, one should praise the contributions of the Asia-Europe Foundation in Singapore which focuses on the cultural dimension of cooperation between the two groupings.” (George Sioris, The Japan Times, 27 December 2002)
Looking Ahead

10 January
Vienna, Austria
Public Lecture
"Asia – Is it forgotten?"
By Dr. Michael Reiterer
Co-organised with Diplomatische Akademie, and Austrian Association for Foreign Policy and International Relations

20 January
ASEF, Singapore
Public Lecture "Asia-Europe Relations since the ASEM Copenhagen Summit"
By Dr. Corrado G.M. Letta

January & March
Asia Meets Europe, a four-part TV documentary series
(ASEM/Korea/Germany/China)
Co-produced by Deutsche-Welle TV and Arirang TV

7 February
ASEF, Singapore
Discussion on Cultural Policy
By H.E. Uraiwan Thienthong, Minister of Culture of Thailand

13 – 17 March
Deauville, France
5th Asian Film Festival of Deauville (ASEF Cultural Grants)
Organised by Association for Promotion of Asian Films and supported by ASEF through its Cultural Grants Programme

17 March
ASEF, Singapore
Seminar "Islam and politics in Asia and in Europe: a comparative perspective"
By Dr. Romain Bertrand

30 March – 6 April
Beijing, China
Asia-Europe Training Programme on Preservation of Traditional Music
Co-organised by ASEF with Music Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Arts and Centre of Ethnic and Folk Literature and Arts Development

Jan – Mar 2003

ASEM

3 – 5 March
Manila, Philippines
ASEM Child Welfare – Experts’ Meeting on the Judicial Protection of Children

10 – 12 March
Malmö, Sweden
Globalisation and ICT – The Role of Government, Private Sector and Civil Society in an Information Society for All

19 – 21 March
Bangkok, Thailand
ASEM Conference on Rehabilitation, Repatriation and Reintegration of the Victims of Trafficking in Persons