FOCUS

Asia Meets Europe, Europe Meets Asia
Korea / Germany / China / ASEM Summit

The objective to produce an Asia-Europe TV Documentary Series is to increase the understanding of Europe among Asians and Asia amongst Europeans, and the documentary series "Asia Meets Europe, Europe Meets Asia," gives a glimpse of how people raised in one culture adapt themselves to living in another.

The Asia-Europe TV series is an ongoing project of the Asia-Europe Foundation. The first series was produced in partnership with Deutsche Welle TV of Germany and Arirang TV of Korea. In the first two episodes, we take a closer look at Germans in Korea and Koreans in Germany. The third episode observes the presence of German businesses and technology amidst the booming Chinese economy, and the last episode focuses on the political aspect of the ASEM process, especially the latest summit in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The four-part documentary series was aired worldwide on the Arirang TV throughout January on a weekly basis and from 6 to 9 March daily by DW-TV in English, German and Spanish.

The next series consisting of France and Thailand is scheduled for the latter half of this year.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Asia Meets Europe, Europe Meets Asia
- Public Lecture by Corrado Guido-Maria Letta on Asia-Europe
- Visit of Mrs Uraiwan Thienthong, Minister of Culture of Thailand to ASEF
- The 5th ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights Series
- Public Lecture "ASEF's Role in Asia-Europe Relations" and Book Launch "Asia-Europe Do They Meet? Reflections on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)"
- ASEF-Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) Reception
- 10th Torino International Women Film Festival (ASEF Cultural Grants)
- Rethinking Media Policy in the Internet Age
- 5th Asian Film Festival of Deauville (ASEF Cultural Grants)
- Public Lecture by Romain Bertrand on: Islam and Politics in Asia and in Europe: A Comparative Perspective (Singapore, Brunei)
- Text & Subtext: Contemporary Asian Women Artists Exhibition
The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Embassy of Italy, Singapore, hosted a public lecture by Dr. Corrado G.M. Letta on the future of Asia-Europe relations and co-operation from the political, economic, cultural, and social aspects.

Speaking to an audience of diplomats, scholars, media and other distinguished guests, Dr. Letta provided an insightful discourse as an European academic familiar with Asian affairs. Dr. Letta, former Chair of the Strategic Thinking Team for the ASEM IV Organizing Committee, holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Pisa University, Italy and is well versed in a wide range of areas including foreign policy, trade, and art.

(L-R) Amb. Jørgen Østrem Møller, Amb. Delfin Colomé, Amb. Guido Scalici and Dr. Corrado Guido-Maria Letta

The Thai Minister of Culture, Mrs. Uraiwan Thienthong and her delegation visited ASEF on 7 February for a discussion with ASEF on Thai cultural policy and to express commitment of the Thai government to reinforce their efforts in Asia-Europe cultural exchanges.

She also spoke about the activities of the Foundation and she felt that ASEF was playing an important role in reducing cultural friction in Asia-Europe relations, leading to better mutual understanding and improved ties between ASEM member countries. She said: “We have the mission that every country should help each other for a strong cultural exchange especially youth and students in view of the ASEF 2004 Vietnam Summit”.

The Directors of ASEF also briefed the Minister of the ongoing activities organised by ASEF and the future goals of the Foundation before a tour of the ASEF building led by ASEF’s Executive Director, Ambassador Delfin Colomé.

This seminar co-organised with the Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University, held in Bangkok, was the second workshop of the Human Rights Series.

Following the first workshop held in Osaka, Japan, this second working group gathered 20 high-level participants from multinational companies, trade unions and the academia. Prof. Vitiit Muntarbhorn, from Chulalongkorn, was the main rapporteur for this meeting.

As the topic was on the consequences of foreign direct investment on human rights, the participants identified the current trends and best practices in Asia and Europe; its impact and constraints on the developing countries; and better understanding of the respective roles undertaken by the different actors.

The proceedings of both the working groups will feed the main seminar scheduled in Lund, Sweden on May 16th and 17th, 2003.

More information: caroline@asef.org
At the Tokyo launch of Dr Michael Reiterer’s Book “Asia-Europe: Do They Meet?”, Executive Director, Ambassador Delfin Colomé and ASEF Governor for Japan, Ambassador Masamichi Hanabusa gave a public lecture on the current and future work of the Asia-Europe Foundation.

Diplomats in Tokyo, related scholars, and media were invited. The event was organised in collaboration with the EU Delegation in Tokyo.

The European Commission has a permanent representation in Singapore as of the beginning of this year.

ASEF invited Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA), Singapore members and the Singapore Diplomatic Club (SDC) to meet with the new EU Ambassador, H.E. Vassilis Bontosoglou.

A brief presentation was held to introduce Amb. Bontosoglou, who commented on EU’s current and future strategy towards Asia. It was followed by an active Q&A session and reception. Prior to his appointment to Singapore, Amb. Bontosoglou was posted in Bangkok to head the economic section at the EU Delegation.

To give more understanding and appreciation of Asian films made by women film makers, ASEF, in partnership with the 10th Torino International Women Film Festival, offered ASEF Cultural Grants to four selected film makers from Asia and one expert.

The following Asian film makers were awarded:
- Yun Jo, Director of Family Project: The House Of A Father (Korea);
- Lawan Jirasuradej, Director of Mama Wahunzi (Thailand);
- Xiaolian Peng, Director of Shanghai Women (China)
- Berta Bay-Sa Pan, Director of Face (China).
The ASEF Cultural Grant was also offered to Ms Yuni Hadi, Film Programmer, The Substation, Singapore, who was invited to give a presentation on Singaporean Women Film Makers at a public forum on *Women Film Making in Asia*. (Teatro Nuovo, 12 March 2003)

The Festival was very successful for the ASEF Cultural Grantees. *Face* was awarded three times (and particularly with the Special 10th Anniversary Women Film Festival Prize), *Shanghai Women* received two prizes (the Best Feature film, Audience Prize) and *Family Project: House Of A Father* had one prize (Third best documentary).

*Shanghai Women*: This film represents a realistic denouncement of the psychological and social conditions women live in a society still ruled by stereotypes. (...) The jury was positively impressed by the language chosen by the director, who witnesses, with her images, a feminine condition which is common to many women. Through Lin’s story, the director wants to give courage to all women, who are at a crossroad, and who still think that they must sacrifice themselves for their children sake. (Shanghai Women was awarded with a prize of €1,000, offered by the counselor for the School System and Politics of Equal opportunities of the Town of Torino).

More information on the Festival at:
[www.festivalcinemadelledonne.com](http://www.festivalcinemadelledonne.com)

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Co-organised with the Bertelsmann Foundation, the IT conference was attended by 46 participants from Europe and Asia, each an expert or observer from the Internet industry, regulators, watchdog bodies and associations.

The opening keynote addresses were provided by Chairman of the National Internet Advisory Committee, Singapore, Professor Bernard Tan, and Erika Mann, Member of the European Parliament. Twenty-one speakers touched on topics such as codes of conduct for Internet Service Providers and the difficulties of policing the Internet. During the proceedings, the concept of an Asian-European body on co-operative internet regulation was suggested, receiving wide endorsement among the participants.

LR: Prof Bernard Tan, Chairman of the National Internet Advisory Committee; Ms Erika Mann, Member of the European Parliament; Prof Marcel Machill, Media Policy Consultant, Bertelsmann Foundation; Amb Delfin Colomé, ASEF Executive Director, Mr Edward Israeli, ASEF Governor of Luxembourg and Dr Albrecht Rothacher, ASEF Director of Public Affairs.
ASEF supported six film makers for their selection in the Digital Video section, part of the 5th Asian Film Festival of Deauville, France.

Following the success of last year’s edition, this section entitled “The Off and Exp. Factory” was re-conducted to support new, experimental and innovative films by young Asian film makers (or films on Asia).

The grantees for this year were:
- **Room To Let**, James LEE, Malaysia, 2002 (http://welcome.to/doghouse73)
- **Poppee**, KIM Jee-hyun, Korea, 2002 (www.indiestory.com)
- **Leaving In Sorrow**, Vincent CHUI, China (Hong Kong), 2002
- **Games Of Their Life**, Dan GORDON, UK, 2002 (www.thegameoftheirlives.com)
- **Moon Overflowing**, Ryota SAKAMAKI, Japan, 2002 (www.tasunoke.com)

The winner of the competition was **Moon Overflowing**, by director Ryota Sakamaki and producer Yugo Saso. Both of them had been recommended by ASEF for the Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, within the scope of Cinemanila 2002 and then selected and invited in Deauville.

Dr Romain Bertrand, a senior research fellow with the Center for International Research and Studies (CERI, Paris) gave a public lecture to ASEF guests, mainly diplomats and academics.

He addressed several issues on challenges posed by political Islam, attitudes and perceptions both in Asia and Europe.

The public lecture in Brunei co-organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attracted an audience of more than 220 enthusiastic listeners from the ministries, faculty and student body from the universities.

The presentation is available at [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

The exhibition, after its tour via Singapore, Stockholm and Copenhagen, headed for Beijing and its newly opened contemporary art centre: X-Ray Art Centre.

The exhibition and its touring are organised by Earl Lu Gallery, LASALLE-SIA, College of the Arts (Singapore) and supported by ASEF.

More information at:
- [http://www.lasallesia.edu.sg](http://www.lasallesia.edu.sg)
Asia Europe Journal

The 2nd issue of Asia Europe Journal, a quarterly academic journal published by ASEF, is expected to be out by end of April. 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 2/2003:

1. Mahathir Mohammd. Trust, Governance and the Third World War
2. Ulrich Niemann. Will Europe's Past be Asia's Future?
3. Tai Siumin. The "United States of Asia" - a Possibility?
4. Justin Tai Wei Chuen. An Asian Union - Limitations and Constraints
6. Joongi Kim. Subregionalism, Regionalism, Trans-regionalism
7. Fukunari Kimura. Institution Building in Asia
8. John Lawrence Avila. EU Enlargement and the Rise of Asian FTAs
9. Christopher M. Dent. Challenges for ASEM
11. Gennady Chyfarin. Russia's Economic and Strategic Interests in North East Asia
12. Gunther Schubert. A New European Taiwan Policy?
14. Book Reviews (Richter/Chang/Brahm/Seitz)

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Asia-Europe Foundation has been bestowed the Ambassador of Dialogue Award in the category of International Relations for its institutional contribution to promoting the idea of dialogue in the world by the Polish Asia Pacific Council (University of Warsaw).

The presentation of the award will take place on 23 April 2003 at a special gala to be held in Warsaw. Executive Director, Ambassador Colome will be accepting the award on behalf of Asia-Europe Foundation.

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**A Letter from ASEF Alumni**

Thanks to the support of ASEF, I studied in the Paris Music Conservatory and graduated from Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris. Within this year, all the things around me have changed completely: different life, different career, different friends and cultures. But anyway, I think this different year is so important for me because I studied more, feel and progress more. I started to have contacts with some great musicians and pianists. I have held many concerts in France, Germany, Portugal, Morocco, Egypt, Canada, Japan and China. It is very interesting for me to play classical recitals, as a Chinese pianist, to different audiences in the world. (...) I would like to thank ASEF for having given to me the chance to begin my study and career in Europe which is so meaningful to me. (Song Siheng was awarded with an ASEF Cultural Grant during the Shanghai International Arts Festival 2001, which allowed him to pursue his study and career in France. He took part in many piano competitions for which he received the first prize. He is now planning to study in Munich or Madrid Conservatory of Music.)

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**Dialogue urged to bridge East-West gaps**

By KANAKO TAKAHARA

Dialogue is crucial to preventing conflict and promoting mutual understanding in a world where people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds must coexist, according to Delfine Colome, executive director of the Asia-Europe Foundation.

Colome, while on a four-day visit to Tokyo to raise funds for the foundation's projects, said such dialogue should be within a "biregional" framework between East and West.

"Diversity is not a bad thing," Colome told The Japan Times. "Our intention is to put these people together so that they realize there are different ways of looking at (their) problems."

ASEF, founded in 1997 by members of the Asia-Europe Meeting, is a Singapore-based nonprofit organization that promotes cultural and academic exchanges among the 15 nations of the European Union and 10 Asian countries and regions, including Japan, that belong to ASEM.

A former Spanish diplomat, Colome urged Japan, as a top contributor to the foundation, to continue providing financial support for ASEF projects, including a two-week program expected to be hosted soon by Keio University in which Asian and European students will be invited to attend symposiums and debates.

Colome said many Muslims around the world have faced hostility following the September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States and continuing conflicts in the Middle East.

He also pointed out that people who emigrate from Southeast Asia to Europe often face hostility because some right-wing elements regard them as a threat to the identity of their nations.

Muslims make up a large proportion of the populations of some ASEF member countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and the southern Philippines, Colome said.

The foundation hopes to help emigrants become better integrated in their new homes.

"We need more dialogue, dialogue and dialogue," he stressed.

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**Delfine Colome**

Nikkei Shim bun, 27 February 2003
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 and Arts Development, Ministry of Culture, China

7 – 25 April
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
International Workshop on Flexible Materials in Asian Collections
Co-organised by ASEF (ASEMUS programme), ICCROM and with the co-operation of Malaysian Department of Museums and Antiquities and Swedish National Museums of World Culture

9 April
Leiden, The Netherlands
The Annual Asia Europe Workshop Series 2003/2004 Selection Committee Meeting
Co-organised with the Strategic Alliance for Asian Studies

10 – 12 April
Umeå, Sweden
Fourth Asia-Europe Forestry Experts Exchange Programme (ASEPFOREP) Steering Committee Meeting

6 – 8 May
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Asia-Europe Workshop Series “Transborder Exchanges: Business, Networks and Identity Formation in Asia’s and Europe’s New Economy”

8 – 9 May
Berlin, Germany
13th Board of Governors Meeting

15 – 16 May
Lund, Sweden
The 5th ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights Series “Human Rights and Economic Relations”
Co-organised with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden

18 – 24 May
Brussels, Belgium
Asia-EU Reporters Seminar
Co-organised with Korea Press Foundation and support from European Commission and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Brussels

20 – 23 May
Delphi, Greece
Asia-Europe Creative Camp
Co-organised with Athens School of Fine Arts, Greece and sponsored by Lee Foundation and Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation

26 May – 6 June
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Asia-Europe Workshop on Cultural and Educational TV Documentary
Co-organised with Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

9 – 20 June
Bangkok, Thailand
Asia-Europe Workshop on Cultural and Educational TV Documentary
Co-organised with Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

11 – 13 June
Beijing, China
ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilisations

12 – 15 June
Antwerp, Belgium
Asia-Europe Meeting on Asymmetry in Museums Collections
Co-organised by ASEF (ASEMUS programme) with Ethnografisch Museum (City Museums of Antwerp) and National Museum, Bangkok

17 – 18 June
Cheju, Korea
2003 Asia-Europe High Level Education Forum: Search for the Future Direction
Co-organised with the Korean Educational Development Institute and the Korea Foundation

19 – 22 June
Singapore
2nd Meeting on the ASEM Education Hubs Network

Apr – June 2003