FOCUS

New ASEF Building Inaugurated by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong 6 - 7 November / Singapore

The new Asia-Europe Foundation building, which was built at the cost of S$5.1 million (2.5 million Euros) by the Singapore Government and donated to ASEF, was inaugurated by Prime Minister on 6 November, coinciding with the 14th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting.

The new building which is both aesthetically elegant and functional is located at the “think-tank complex” of National University of Singapore allowing ASEF to interact more actively with other multilateral and academic institutions in the neighbourhood such as Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat and Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

The event was attended by around 180 invited guests mainly from the diplomatic and academic communities in Singapore, representatives from other multilateral institutions, and the media.

Executive Director of ASEF, Amb. Delfin Colomé commented, "We are very grateful to the Government of Singapore and in particular, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for the continued support and enthusiasm he has shown towards ASEF. In the last seven years, ASEF has put together about 10,000 people of Asia and Europe through almost 300 programs. This is a proud achievement that is rightfully shared with all member countries and the European Commission. In the new home, we hope to further our efforts in order to achieve even greater results and enlarge the number of ASEF alumni. We have certainly been privileged to have been able to operate out of Singapore under the generous sponsorship and care of the Singapore Government."
Co-organised with Centre Asie at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) (France) and De La Salle University (Philippines), the objective of this meeting was to discuss and analyse the current state of the regional debate in East Asia and possible areas for initiatives and contributions from Europe.

It was a timely occasion for academics and politicians from each side to provide the current pictures on the construction of regional institutions and their socio-political developments, challenges, status of security and the future prospects of the bi-regional relations and also to exchange their views on what could be some of the useful lessons that could be drawn from the European integration experience to be taken into account in Asia and vice versa by the policy-makers as well as the civil society. They also explored if there were any possibilities in the future of Asia following the regional integration model of the European Union. Considering the various factors in Asia that were very different from the European circumstances and interests, however, most participants concurred that such a comparison should consider the Asian particularities involving constitutional, military, economic, and monetary aspects.

The conference addressed the following issues over three days, which was covered by several media from Asia and Europe:

1. East Asia and Western Europe, between Regionalisation and Globalisation
2. The Region as a Security Community
3. The Driving Forces of Institutions: The Region as a Construction

Some of the prominent political personalities invited to the conference were: Surin Pitsuwan, Rodolfo C. Severino, Gilles Andréani, and Adburrhman Wahid.

For more information, please contact caroline@asef.org

**ASEF supported seven young film directors from Asia and two from Europe to attend 8th Pusan International Film Festival with ASEF Cultural Grants (Japan Trust Fund):**

- Thomas de Thier (Feathers in My Head), Belgium
- Costanza Quattriglio (The Island), Italy
- Rosyton Tan (15), Singapore
- Jia Zhankle (Xiao Wu), China
- Yinan Diao (Uniform), China
- Gan Xiao'er (The Only Sons), China
- Pimpaka Towira (One Night Husband), Thailand
- Pencel Ratanarvang (Last Life in the Universe), Thailand
- Ryuji Masuda (Garacuta), Japan

The ASEF Cultural Grants programme offered them two unique opportunities to present their films to the audience and to network with other cinema professionals.
ASEF and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development co-organised a one-week workshop on children's TV programmes with Vietnam Training Centre for Radio & Television as the host.

More than 15 attended this workshop led by Ms Ragna Wallmark, who is the Head of Children's Programmes, Swedish Public Service Company and Head of Programmes at UR - The Swedish Educational Company. The topics discussed at the workshop were: 1) The importance of national children's television in the age of globalisation; 2) How do we define culture; 3) Storytelling. How to compete with Disney with our own national sagas; 4) Documentaries on children television; magazine programmes.

This first workshop had been organised in Singapore last November with the support from Singapore Broadcasting Authority, Singaporean Ministries of Education, and of Community Development and Sports.

ASEF and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development co-organised a three-day workshop on Children's TV Programmes in close collaboration with Prix Jeunesse Foundation at Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich, Germany.

The workshop was enriched by professional input from Prix Jeunesse, researchers from Bayerischer Rundfunk, and consultants from Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF).

The workshop started with the screening of each participant's production, divided according to the age group of the audience, followed by the exchange of views on each programme. The second day consisted of an academic discussion on children's psychology and interest, with emphasis on the concepts of entertainment and interactivity in children's programme. The third day was dedicated to screening the award winning children's TV programme from the latest Prix Jeunesse Festival 2002, called "Prix Jeunesse Suitcase" and regarded as the best model for children's TV programme.

The small group of participants (15 from education, children, youth programmes) engaged in lively debates and interactive discussions, comprehensively covering both theory and practices in children TV programme making.

The Course was co-organised with the Network for Voluntary Development Asia (NVDA), supported by the Alliance of the European Voluntary Service Organisations and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), and hosted by the International Workcamp Organisation (IWO).

Asia-Europe Youth Training for Trainers Course (TFT) aims to strengthen institutional links among youth organisations in Asia and Europe. The overall focus of the seminar is to facilitate the sharing of experiences, resources and ideas on training, as well as the compilation of information amongst the different organisations for each to develop its own programmes. More broadly, TFT seeks to build a pool of experienced trainers for future activities to enhance better mutual exchanges between Asia and Europe.

Some 30 work camp leaders from youth organisations across Asia and Europe engaged actively in discussions during the week-long seminar, exchanging ideas and solutions that would prove useful in future youth training programmes.

The participants also had the opportunity to appreciate the Korean traditional art performances at Jeongdong Theatre, followed by a guided tour to the Gyeongbok Palace.

For more information, please contact yvonne@asef.org
The Year of Living Digitally was a Festival around the impact of digital technology on everyday life and the ways in which this is reflected and explored in different art forms such as web, film, sound, and visual performance.

ASEF supported 9 artists from 6 Asian and European countries to participate in one of the Festival events, Audio Output involving electronic sound and music.

After public performances on the first two days, a public presentation-workshop offered the audience a chance to interact with the artists. These talks and workshops explored the context of the artists' work, the use of technology and addressed the crucial issues confronted by the independent and electronic musicians.

More information is found at: livedigitally.net.

The Asia-Europe Roundtable (AER) is a joint initiative of ASEF, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Singapore, and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) since 2000. The 3rd AER on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation was hosted by Institute for International Relations (IIR) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam.

Seventy participants from 22 different countries in Asia and Europe attended the meeting, with a balanced mix of policy-makers, parliamentarians, scholars, policy researchers, and representatives from think tanks and NGOs.

Case studies from the two regions and the roles and limits of external actors in the reconciliation process were presented. This roundtable employed a strategy of Europeans presenting Asian cases and Asians presenting European case studies.
(cont'd)

Case studies from Asia:
• Vietnam-ASEAN
• Indonesia-East Timor
• North-South Korea

Case studies from Europe:
• France-Germany after World War II
• The Former Yugoslavia
• Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland

This cross-fertilisation of ideas led to a very lively discussion and thought-provoking debate on the following major questions and issues:
• How could 'reconciliation' be defined?
• What are the pre-conditions for reconciliation?
• How can its success be measured?
• Who are the key actors?
• What could be learnt from experiences of reconciliation processes in Asia and Europe?

A common understanding of reconciliation emerged: it is a process which has to take place once preventive diplomacy has failed; where a conflict has emerged; and where conflict management and conflict resolution have taken place. Conflict prevention should therefore be given highest priority. As Talleyrand stated in the 19th century: 'When it is urgent, it is already too late'.

In his keynote speech, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, former High Representative to Bosnia and now Austrian Representative to the United Nations (UN) and to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, emphasised the importance of a co-ordinated and multi-pronged approach taken by the international actors. Unique first-hand insights into the complexity of peace-building were provided by former ASEAN Secretary General Rodolfo Severino, Member of the European Parliament John Walls Cunahavan, former Portuguese Ambassador to Indonesia Ana Gomes, ASEF Governor for Indonesia Amb. Sastrohardoyo Wiryono, and the Chairperson of the East Timor Commission on Reception, Truth & Reconciliation Aniceto Guterres Lopes.

As the final analysis, peace and reconciliation are long-term and incomplete processes in many countries in Asia, Europe and in the international community. The 3rd Asia-Europe Roundtable was one small step on that long, difficult and sometimes even dangerous road towards peace and reconciliation.

For more information, please contact sol.iglesias@asef.org

The Fifth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians’ Meeting was a joint collaboration between ASEF and the National People’s Congress, with strong support coming from the Gulin People’s Congress, Gulin Municipal Government and the People’s Congress of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Forty-two young parliamentarians from 14 ASEM countries and the European Parliament gathered in Gulin, China during the Fifth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting to exchange views and perspectives on the theme, "Promoting Mutual Growth and Development in Asia and Europe Through Strengthened Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue". The meeting took stock of the current state of relations between Asia and Europe within three pillars of cooperation: political and security dialogue, economic co-operation and the dialogue on cultures and civilisations.

The international fight against terrorism was a central theme in the discussion on political and security dialogue, as a debate ensued over the effectiveness of current anti-terrorism measures and the necessity of having a multilateral framework when coming up with suitable approaches. It was noted that countries should develop short and long-term strategies targeting not only terrorist acts, but also the causes of such acts. Caution would also need to be practiced to balance the fight against terrorism with the protection of civil liberties.

Although it was noted that globalisation is both a neutral force and an irreversible trend, the challenges arising from economic globalisation remained a source of concern during the dialogue on enhancing economic co-operation. It was however, mentioned that increased regional co-operation could minimise the risks posed by economic globalisation. Policy-makers at the local level could play a major role in coming up with policies to jointly address the challenges of globalisation, as well as move towards increased institutionalisation. (cont’d)
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5th ASEF Young Parliamentarians’ Meeting
23 - 26 October
Guilin, China

With regards to the dialogue among cultures and civilisations, it was noted that culture is becoming increasingly prominent in international relations: the "globalisation of culture" and the theory of a clash of civilisations were widely discussed at the meeting. The assertion that different civilisations were destined to clash was rejected. Instead, there was a broad agreement that culture had never been a negative force in international relations and that cultural diversity is an asset that must be respected and preserved.

A common point of the discussions was the importance of dialogue at all levels. Parliamentarians emphasised frequent interaction and exchange between the peoples of Asia and Europe as major contributing factors toward the strengthening of relations between the two regions.

The Lijiang Declaration, bearing testament to the importance of strengthening the relationship between Asia and Europe through increased co-operation, dialogue and exchanges, was unanimously adopted at the conclusion of the meeting. Parliamentarians stated their concerns with world peace and stability and the promotion of economic, social development and world prosperity. They also committed themselves to actively participate in and push forward the ASEM process for even greater progress.

For more information, please contact cathy@asef.org

The four-hour videoconference was organised in partnership with the French Embassy in Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The Asian audience in Singapore invited by ASEF and its co-partners, was simultaneously linked with the European audience in Poitiers, France at the 13th European Meeting on Science and People, Futuroscope.

In Singapore, utilising a “smart classroom” in NTU, Ms. Pascale Fabre of Alliance Française, Singapore, moderated the discussions on policy issues surrounding the management of multiculturalism and the promotion of inter-cultural understanding. Thirty social scientists working in the fields of anthropology, sociology, political science, and others were invited from the ten Asian member countries of ASEF and other Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) countries. Around 40 local students, professionals and representatives of the local research fraternity joined the participants in Singapore.

In Poitiers, the discussion was moderated by Dr Gil Delannoi, Member of the Scientific Board of the Sciences and Society of Futuroscope and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). A five-member panel from Asia and Europe, including Dr Jean-Marc Bouissou, Director of Research of the Centre of International Studies and Research (CERI), discussed their perspectives on multiculturalism to a European audience of more than 50 students and scientists. The videoconference was an integral part of the 13th Meeting on Science and People, which was organised by the Paris-based CNRS, and brought together hundreds of youth and scientists from 24 to 26 October, at Futuroscope in Poitiers, France.

For more information, please contact sol.iglesias@asef.org

In Singapore, moderator Pascale Fabre sorts out technical adjustments during the set-up.

The “smart classroom” of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
Close to 100 delegates representing more than 65 universities and other stakeholder institutions in the field of higher education from 25 ASEM countries gathered in Singapore for the Second General Meeting on the ASEM Education Hub (AEH).

AEH was an initiative endorsed at the second ASEM in London, United Kingdom, in April 1998, to foster greater exchanges and cooperation between Asia and Europe in the field of higher education. The cornerstone of the AEH is the Education and Research Network (AEH-EARN), a network of universities in Asia and Europe that offer exchange scholarships in different academic fields to encourage students from one region to study in the other.

The Second General Meeting was officially opened by the Minister of State for Education of Singapore, Dr Ng Eng Hen. The participants consisted of representatives of universities, ministries of education, academic exchange institutions and regional university networks, and reviewed the current situation in the mobility of students, researchers and faculty between Asia and Europe, as well as joint research and curriculum development activities between the two regions. They also discussed the merits of an inter-regional credit transfer system, as well as potential for closer co-operation between Asia and Europe in the field of borderless and continuing education.

After two days of discussions, the participants identified the key issues and drew up a plan of action that would address some of the major structural issues that presently restrict greater exchanges and co-operation in the field of higher education between Asia and Europe. These recommendations have been captured in the AEH Action Plan for Higher Education Co-operation between Asia and Europe.

In the first two Lecture Tours of the newly established Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue programme, Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) and Prof. Shamsul AB, Director of the University Kebangsaan Malaysia embarked on tours of a few European countries - each presenting lectures to audiences in 4-5 major cities.

The Lecture Tours are designed to provide a platform for emerging leaders of opinion on Asian and European civil societies to address an informed audience on issues pertaining to bridging the cultural and civilisation differences between the regions. Towards this objective, the Lecture Tours bring Asians to Europe and Europeans to Asia.

In the first of the series, Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee toured 4 cities in Southern Europe over two weeks in November this year. Presenting her lecture entitled, "Countering Unilateralism, Preserving Diversity: Dimensions of Asia-Europe Co-operation," Dr Yeo spoke in Madrid with the Centro de Estudios de Asia Oriental (CEAO) Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, in Lisbon, with the Instituto de Estudos Estrategicos Internacionais (IEEI), in Barcelona with Casa Asia and Milan with ISESASO, Bocconi University.

(cont'd)
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Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Lecture Tours:
Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee
"Countering Unilateralism, Preserving Diversity: Dimensions of Asia-Europe Co-operation"
15 - 30 November
Spain, Portugal, Italy

Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Lecture Tours: Prof. AB Shamsul
1 - 15 December
Netherlands, Germany, France, UK

Dr Yeo Lay Hwee delivering lecture in a session chaired by Rafael Bueno, Director, East-West Dialogue, Casa Asia-Universal Forum of Cultures 2004

The Lecture Tour of Prof. Shamsul AB brought him to Paris, Leeds, Berlin, Bonn, and Brussels. His lecture entitled "Islam Embedded: Religion and Plurality in Southeast Asia as a mirror for Europe," was well received by academics, students, journalists and members of various religious communities. In the individual cities, this lecture tour was hosted by Centre d'Etudes de Recherches Internationales (CERI), Leeds University (Leeds), Humboldt University (Berlin), University of Bonn (Bonn) and the European Institute for Asian Studies (Brussels).

For more information, please contact solmi.kaur@asef.org or visit www.civdialogue.asef.org

Together with International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and National Arts Council of Singapore (NAC), ASEF co-organised the Asia-Europe Arts Councils Network (ASEARTS) Conference, as a back-to-back conference with the 2nd World Summit on the Arts and Culture (www.artsummit.org).

The theme for this first ASEARTS Meeting was on international mobility of artists between Asia and Europe. This is a timely topic, since European Union is clearly stepping up its support for the field of culture, and focusing on the question of mobility of artists and works of art, and of artistic ideas.

The participants - mostly from art councils, cultural institutions, funding agencies and art related organisations - were given two unique opportunities to network and get experiences from each other through the World Summit on Arts and Culture and the ASEARTS Conference.

The morning session, with the presentations of models of cultural policy and of case studies of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, illustrated the rich variety of each country's experience, knowledge and practice in terms of exchange of artists. Based on this diverse reality of actions, the afternoon sessions aimed at discussing problems and prospects linked to artists' mobility and at elaborating more concerted actions in this field. The question raised was also: how ASEF, considering the existing artist's exchange, could bring capacity building within the current core of network and co-operation.

For a report on this first ASEARTS Conference and ASEF's follow-up activities in the field of cultural policies, please refer to www.asef.org/dirt/rc/asearts or contact wendylee@asef.org.
The Forum provided a unique opportunity for 20 talented student and/or young professional photographers from Europe and Asia, to learn about the latest professional and business practices in the field of documentary photography in Asia and Europe.

Prominent photojournalists such as Jan Garup (Denmark), Kadir van Lohuizen (the Netherlands), Lise Sarfati (France), and Geo magazine editor Sujong Song (Korea) were invited to give presentations and lead discussions. Three afternoons of fieldwork formed an integral part of the Forum. The work produced during the Forum will be printed in a catalogue after the workshop and will be followed by an exhibition in Amsterdam.

The young photographers were guided to document through photographs of the theme “Migrations” in Amsterdam (Migrations and Roots; Migrations and City Landscape; Migrations and the Arts; Migrations and Children etc). Said Marion Schut, one of the tutors and the person in charge of the assignments: "There are numerous reasons, both positive and negative, for people to migrate to another country, another part of the world. (...) More than often negative results of migration tend to attract the attention of the media. Good news does not qualify as news. With this project, we intend to focus on the positive effects, both for the individual and society in general."

More information is found at: www.asaf.org/dir/cce/photos2003 or contact: maricelssourd@asaf.org.

Part of its ASEF Cultural Grants Programme (Japan Trust Fund), ASEF supported 5 European artists, theorists and cultural professionals to share their experiences and thoughts related to arts and its social, political and economic responsibilities.

The International Workshop on Artists' Initiatives was organised by the Cemeti Art Foundation and was a follow-up - with various developments - to the event hosted in Seoul in 2002 (organised by Forum A, an artists' initiative in Seoul), as part of the Gwangju Biennale Exhibition.

{cont'd}
The main objective of the Yogyakarta meeting was to create a more intensive and sustainable network of alternative art spaces, to foster the exchange of ideas, art practices and initiatives, as well as to set a foundation or springboard for a new form of international collaboration.

The invited artists, under the ASEF Cultural Grants Programme were:
1. Martin Brandt from Finger group (www.fingerweb.org) Frankfurt, Germany
2. Andreas Wolf from Finger group
3. Charles Esche (www.protoacademy.org) from Malmö, Sweden
4. Lesley Young from Malmö, Sweden
5. Lisette Smits from Casco (www.cascoprojects.org) Utrecht, the Netherlands

The first meeting of Talks on the Hill series brought together 14 individuals from Asia and Europe for intensive brainstorming sessions on the various interpretations of the human relationship with nature. This distinguished group of personalities included activists, artists, academics, and researchers who engage in work related to environmental appreciation and protection.

Beginning with two case studies of indigenous peoples - the Toraja from South Sulawesi, Indonesia and the Sami of Northern Europe, the group then examined how art, religion and politics are cultural tools used to reflect and human interaction with nature, and what they have to offer in the ecological movement. The unique format and informal setting of the discussion were conducive for intensive discussions on the theme over the two days. The profiles of the participants as well as the final report and other information related to the meeting are found at: www.civdialogue.asef.org

For more information, please contact sohni.kaur@asef.org
(cont’d)

Cultures & Civilisations
Dialogue Programme:
Talks on the Hill “Cultural Tools as a means of forging Human Interaction with Nature”
8 – 9 December
Singapore

Prof. Yoshinori Yasuda (International Research Centre for Japanese Studies):
I am Japanese, but after having spent time with this group with people from all over Europe as well as other countries in Asia, not only do I feel like I have learnt much about Europe, but I also understand Asia better.

Dr. Heike Loeschmann (Director, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Thailand & Southeast Asia Regional Office):
What made these two days of intensive and at times controversial debate so special in comparison to other meetings I attended in the Asia-Europe setting was not only the well thought through concept, but a very well balanced mix of participants in all aspects: gender and age, perspective and worldview, country and context represented as well as the different fields of professional expertise, political and religious affiliation and walks of life. In their home countries, the discussants are involved in many different ways and fields of expertise and came to Singapore to find common ground in their effort to forge a human relationship to nature which was found in the principle and imperative “humanity is part of nature, people and the respect for nature before commodification and profit!”

The workshop was co-organised with Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (aibd.org.my) and Radio Television Brunei (RTB).

The five-day workshop, led by Susanne Rieschel, was aimed at planning a TV Youth magazine programme for an audience between 13-17 years of age. This programme was intended to encourage the young people identify themselves with their own culture by confronting to cope with the problems of adolescence, and to share their experiences on overcoming certain fears, dealing with emotional problems, and learning to express themselves. The programme included telling stories taken from everyday life, stories that were entertaining, informative, interesting, humorous, and imaginative.

Organised together with the Embassy of Italy, currently holding the Presidency of the European Union, the launch of the book Pan-Sita was held at ASEF with the presence of the author.

Written by Dr. Corrado G.M. Letta, Pan-Sita consists of a dialogue of voices, music and sound effects, offering observations and analyses on a wide range of subjects surrounding Asia-Europe relations including the interdependence of civil society in the spirit of improving cross-cultural relationships between the two regions. The publication was also sponsored by STMicroelectronics Asia-Pacific, a franco-italian company.

Order your complimentary copy by writing to info@asef.org. While stocks last.
The Annual Asia-Europe Workshop Series 2004/2005
Various ASEM member countries

Since the launch of the workshop series in 2002, ASEF and the European Alliance for Asian Studies (a co-operative framework of European Institutes specialising in Asian Studies) have provided financial support to twelve workshops, which greatly assisted in the realisation of their proposals.

Academic researchers in Asia and Europe were required to jointly organise workshops based on contemporary topics of common interest to both Asia and Europe in a comparative perspective, thus stimulating inter-regional dialogue.

As a result of the high levels of enthusiasm and interest shown throughout this series, the third phase for workshops for the period of September 2004 to September 2005, has recently been launched. ASEF will now fully fund three additional workshops, making it a total of nine workshops.

For more information on how you could qualify, please visit our website at www.asef.org or contact: caroline@asef.org

Asia-Europe Workshop Series
"Social and Cultural Effects of Computer-mediated Interactive Communications Technology in Europe and Asia"
20 - 22 October
Manila, Philippines

Asia-Europe Workshop Series
"Social Science and AIDS in Southeast Asia"
10 - 11 November
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Asia-Europe Workshop Series
"The Internet and Elections in Asia and Europe"
12 - 15 November
Singapore

Asia-Europe Workshop Series
"New Perspectives in Eurasian Archaeology"
21 - 23 November
Stockholm, Sweden

Asia-Europe Workshop Series
"The Security Paradox of Open Borders: Surveillance and Control of Migrants"
15 - 17 December
Chiang Mai, Thailand
The ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilisations was hosted by China in Beijing on 3-4 December, attended by ministers or equivalent representatives from the 26 members of ASEM.

Proposed at the ASEM IV Summit in Copenhagen last year, the aim is to recognise the importance of dialogue on cultures and civilisations and to promote such exchanges with the view to minimising the conflicts and misunderstandings among different countries. The Ministers noted the following in the Chairman’s Statement as part of the policy direction recommended for future co-operation:

"The need to expand and intensify the work of ASEM in the field of cultural and educational exchanges (e.g. the ASEMUS and the DUO programmes). In this regard, the Ministers appreciated the substantial contributions that have been made by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in promoting intercultural dialogue, mutual awareness, and understanding between Asia and Europe through its comprehensive programmes in the field of intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. The Ministers encouraged ASEF to further intensify its work in these areas, in accordance with the pluriannual action plans that it has already formulated."

Xinhua News reported on 4 December:
The Asia-Europe Foundation, the only standing organ of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), pledged to play an even more active role in promoting cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two continents. Delfin Colomé, executive director of the foundation, said here Thursday that his organisation will help Asian and European officials at different levels to have more exchanges and promote the two continents' cooperation in all spheres. Attending the Conference on Cultures and Civilisations, the first within the framework of ASEM, Colomé said the world is facing threats from unilateralism, and thus more opportunities should be created for countries to get together and have dialogues. "To meet challenges from terrorism and globalisation, we need to unite together and hold dialogues based on equality and mutual respect," he said.
ASIA EUROPE JOURNAL

AEJ 04/2003 is out as of December 2003. The contents of the fourth issue are as follows:

1. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Asia's New Order
2. Rodolfo C. Severino. ASEAN Economic Integration
3. Christopher Patten. Together, Asia and Europe Can Make a Difference
5. Heungchong Kim. Inter-Korean Relations: The Roles of the US and the EU
6. Tang Shaoceng. The EU's Taiwan Policy in the Light of its China Policy
7. Stephanie Po-yin Chung. Western Law vs. Asian Customs
8. Sol Iglesias. Colonial and Indigenous Influences in the Philippines
9. Konstadakopoulos. EU-ASEAN Cooperation in Science and Technology
10. Book reviews

ASEF IN THE NEWS

Guillin Daily
Date: 28/10/2003
Sunday

Guillin Daily
28/10/2003
Tuesday

Tokyo Shim bun
28/10/2003
Sunday

Guangming Daily
14/10/2003
Tuesday

The Straits Times
5/10/2003
Wednesday

Zur Zeit
22/10/2003
Wednesday

Chosun Ilbo
26/10/2003
Sunday

 Philippine Star
 5/10/2003
 Sunday

Toel Tre
25/10/2003
Saturday
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27 - 29 January
Bogor, Indonesia
5th ASEFREP Steering Committee Meeting

28 - 31 January
Göteborg, Sweden
Second Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting
(including SEA-Images website launch)
Co-organised with Göteborg International Film Festival

30 January
Website launch of sea-images.asef.org
A unique platform for film exchange, with a focus on independent Asian and European filmmaking

1 - 14 February
Manila, Philippines
9th ASEF University
Co-organised with the John Gokongwei School of Management, Ateneo de Manila University

5 - 6 February
Singapore
Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue
2nd ASEF "Talks on the Hill"
Exploring the Relationship between Religion and State

9 - 20 February
Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia (tbc)
Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Lecture Tour
"Asia & Europe: Creating a New Politics of Trust" by Peter Ashby (UK)

15 - 19 February
Ayutthaya, Thailand
UNESCO-AHPADA-ASEF Training Workshop: From Tradition to Innovation – Design Innovation within Traditional Aesthetic Forms - Thailand
Co-organised by ASEF, ASEAN Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (AHPADA) and UNESCO Regional office

20 February - 9 May
Seoul, Korea
MixMax (ASEF Cultural Grants - Japan Trust Fund)
Organised by Artsone Centre, Seoul

21 February
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Panel on Trade, Biotechnology and Sustainable Development (a side event of the 7th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity)
Co-organised with the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS)

3 - 7 March
Paris, France
First Asian Film Festival of Paris (ASEF Cultural Grants)
Organised by Association pour la diffusion du cinéma asiatique

4 - 6 March
Singapore
Museum Hopping: The Asia-Europe Marketplace for Sharing Cultural Heritage (ASEMUS)
Co-organised with National Heritage Board, Singapore, with professional help of British Museum, United Kingdom

25 - 26 March
Jeju, Korea
Asia-Europe Environment Forum Series
2nd Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change

March
Spain
2nd Asia-Europe Training Course for Leaders of Youth
Co-organised with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

March
(tbc)
Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Lecture Tour By Cesar de Prado Yepes

First quarter 2004
Lisbon, Portugal
Second Asia-Europe Seminar on Local Cultural Industries
Co-organised with AMAPI-Macau

First quarter 2004
Beijing and Chengdu, China
ASEF-ACYF Youth EXPLORE
Co-organised with All-China Youth Federation