15th Board of Governors' Meeting 27 - 28 May / Dublin, Ireland

Amb. Cho Won-Il from Korea has been officially confirmed the next Executive Director of ASEF in Dublin, Ireland, during the biannual Board of Governor's meeting.

Thus he will succeed Amb. Dr. Colomé from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October this year as the third Executive Director of ASEF since its establishment in 1997. Cho Won-Il is currently the Consul-General in New York. He was previously the Ambassador to Vietnam, Deputy Representative of the South Korean Mission to the UN, and Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning at the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade since entering the Ministry in 1968. The position of Executive Director alternates between Europe and Asia every three to four years.

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Mr. Hendrik Kloninger the new Deputy Executive Director has started his duty at ASEF as of 1 May. He was also warmly welcomed at the Board Meeting. Mr. Kloninger was born in Berlin, and has previously served as the Director of Goethe Institute in Dakar, Senegal prior to joining ASEF. His responsibilities as the Director in Senegal included overseeing programmes such as exhibition projects, academic seminar projects, and cultural co-operation with the embassies of the European countries in Dakar, which led to his founding the informal working group, "Groupe Culture Europe".

In addition to approving new projects and reviewing the financial records, the Governors also discussed about the long-term sustainability of the Foundation. A paper will be submitted to the Senior Officials of ASEM and the Foreign Ministers prior to the ASEM Summit in Hanoi this year.

During the Board Meeting

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Forty top-level climate change and environment experts from government, academia, research institutes, non-government organisation, and the private sector called for the Asia-Europe Environment Forum to provide the launching pad for an Asia-Europe taskforce or observatory for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project facilitation between Asia and Europe.

This mechanism could take on such functions as capacity and institution-building, technology cooperation, pooling/showcasing of good practices and experiences, information exchange, and research.

The roundtable was held back-to-back with the Global Civil Society Forum on 27-28 March and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on 29-31 March at the same venue. It was the second in a series of roundtables under the "Asia-Europe Environment Forum", which is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The up-coming 3rd Roundtable “Technology Partnerships for Renewables: Key to Energy Security” on 26-28 August in Stockholm, Sweden will be held on the sidelines of the largest ever pan-European scientific meeting, the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2004 in Stockholm. The final session of the roundtable has been selected as one out of 45 scientific sessions at the ESOF 2004. Moreover, ASEF brings an Asian participation to this European event through the support of up to 20 Asian scientists.

Please visit http://env.asef.org for more information.

Contact: sol.iglesias@asef.org.

"In my view, for there to be progress in the next round of climate change commitments, I feel that there has to be strong coalition and that coalition is missing right now. At this point in time, the negotiations are waiting for a coalition of countries who want something to happen, to step forward and make some proposals. Channelled into something concrete, the idea of Asia-Europe co-operation is very natural and very important for hope rather than despair over the state of international climate policy".

- Richard Kinley, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)
**NatFilm Festival**

26 March - 11 April

Copenhagen, Denmark

**NatFilm Festival is the biggest international film event in Denmark.**

As in every year, each cinema in Copenhagen participated in the festival, which also screened parts of the programme in three other cities in Denmark: Odense, Aalborg and Århus. NatFilm Festival is considered as an important platform for domestic distributors, while promoting everything from Hollywood releases to cutting-edge films during the event.

For the 2004 edition, four young film directors from Asia and Europe received ASEF Cultural Grants to take part in the festival:
- David Caffrey, Ireland, *Grand Theft Parsons*
- Bong Joon-Ho, South Korea, *Memories of Murder*
- Jan Krüger, Germany, *En route (Unterwegs)*
- Lee Sang-II, Japan, *Border Line*

They presented their films to the audience and took part in a visit of the National Film School of Denmark (www.filmskolen.dk). This professional visit allowed them to know more about the cinema situation in Denmark (film school system, funding, etc.). It was also an occasion to learn more about the resources available in SEA Images website (sea-images.asef.org).

Visit [http://sea-images.asef.org](http://sea-images.asef.org) (under About us/About ASEF/ASEF Cultural Grants) for more information or email marielesourd@asef.org.

**First Asian Film Festival of Paris**

31 March - 4 April

Paris, France

**Asia-Europe Foundation, through its ASEF Cultural Grants Programme, supported the first Asian Film Festival of Paris.**

The ASEF Cultural Grants Programme allowed three young film directors to present their films in Paris [Jasmine Ng, Singapore for "Eating Air", Pen-Ek Ratanaruang, Thailand for "Monnik Transistor" and Kim Jee Woon, Korea for his film retrospective (including "A tale of Two sisters", "The quiet family" etc)] and to interact with film professionals from France and Asia.

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First Asian Film Festival of Paris
31 March - 4 April
Paris, France

Rencontres du cinéma asiatique de Paris

Carrément l'Est
31 Mars - 4 Avril 2004 - MK2 Bibliothèque

Official poster of the First Asian Film Festival of Paris

Group photo of the directors of Asian film festivals in Europe and guests

With the co-operation of the Asian Film Festival Paris committee, a special roundtable with the directors of Asian Film Festivals in Europe (Veszol, Paris, Berlin, Udine and Barcelona) was organised for the first time. This first meeting highlighted the similarities and differences among Asian Film Festivals' approaches in Europe while emphasising the need for more co-ordination to face the increasing competition among Film Festivals.

Visit http://sea-images.asef.org (under About us/About ASEF/ASEF Cultural Grants) for more information on the recommendations of this roundtable or email marielssourd@asef.org.

Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue - Asian Lecture Tour by Cesar de Prado Yepes
"Excelling Globalisation: Connecting Innovations from the European Union and East Asia"
April 2004

In the fourth of the Lecture Tours Series, Dr Cesar de PradoYepes, of the Comparative Regional Integration Studies Programme, United Nations University (Bruges, Belgium) visited 5 cities in Northeast Asia.

Throughout April, he was hosted in these cities by the Chinese Association for European Studies (Beijing), the European Studies Centre (Shanghai), the Institute of Korean Politics (Seoul), the International Centre of Keio University (Tokyo), the Centre of Asian Studies (Hong Kong) and the International Institute of Macau, where he delivered his lecture entitled, "Excelling Globalisation: Connecting Innovations from the European Union and East Asia."

This lecture argued that the global comparative advantage of both Western Europe and East Asia rests not in military might, but in incremental peace through the rapid acquisition and wise use of knowledge by more people. It examined public and private networks between countries - specifically of Western Europe and East Asia, and focused particularly on businesses and the academia. Finally, his lecture asked if policymakers in both regions are ready for this level of connectedness.

The text of his lecture as well as his slide presentation may be viewed at www.civdialogue.asef.org.

For more information, please contact Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.
The third annual selection committee, a co-operation between ASEF and the European Alliance for Asian Studies (www.asia-alliance.org) was held on 9 April 2004 in Singapore.

For the first time, 9 workshops were selected by the committee, of which 3 workshops will be fully funded by ASEF for realisation during the period of 2004 and 2005.

Of the thirty-seven proposals received, twenty-seven proposals submitted to the committee for selection fitted the project guidelines. For the results of the successful proposals, please refer to the newly launched website by ASEF at http://aews.asef.org

The members of the Selection Committee are Ambassador Dr. Delfin Colomé, Executive Director (ASEF); Professor Wim A.L. Stolhof, Director, International Institute of Asian Studies (the Netherlands); Professor Shamsul A.B. Professor of Social Anthropology and Director, Institute of the Malay World & Civilization (ATMA) (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur); Professor Taciana Fisac, Titular Professor of Language and Culture of the Far East, UAM, Director, Centro de Estudios de Asia Oriental (Madrid, Spain); Professor Hahn Chaibong, Department of Political Science, Yonsei University (Korea) and Director of the Division of Social Sciences Research & Policy, UNESCO; Professor Lily Kong, Vice Provost (Education), National University of Singapore; Professor Jean-Luc Domenach, Fondation Nationale des Sciences-Politiques (France) / Tsinghua University (Beijing, China), Prof H.W. Maull, University of Trier (Germany).

The European Alliance for Asian Studies gathers 7 research centers, namely, the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), the Institute of Asian Affairs (IFA), the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), Asia Europe Centre (AEC), Centro de Estudios de Asia Oriental, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Please visit http://aews.asef.org or http://asia-alliance.org for more information.

Contact: caroline@asef.org.
The two-day meeting brought over 70 eminent scholars, researchers, and policy-makers from Asia and Europe in the field of regional security to discuss the prospects of greater Asia-Europe co-operation on security.

The discussions focused on:

- Perceptions of new challenges and security threats in Asia and Europe and the concept of “comprehensive security”;
- Asia-Europe comparison on regional conditions and security mechanisms; and
- Prospects for greater dialogue and cooperation.

The organisers have presented the final report of the conference to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs of all 25 ASEM member countries. The Asia-Europe Dialogue on Security was co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) with the China Institute for International Studies (CIIS) and supported by the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Contact: natalia@asef.org.

The exhibition "Migrations," organised by World Press Photo Foundation, was based on selected photographs from the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers, which was co-organised with ASEF in December 2003.

One of the visitors Hikaru Toda, 21, commented: "I visited your exhibition in the Oude Kerke, Amsterdam today and I was very intrigued by the projects you engage in. The exhibition of the ASEF project "Migrations" was very inspiring, and being a Japanese living in Holland, the images were very reflective of myself and many people I know within the international community I live in. I think the issue of migration is an inescapable reality of the globalised world today and I felt that such a project really captured the realms of the global trend of migration and cultural hybridisation."

Contact: marielesourd@asef.org.
Throughout various locations in Asia, Ms. May-Britt Stumbaum from the German Council on Foreign Relations delivered her lecture about the European experience of integration in the areas of foreign and security policy.

Her lecture tour was hosted in the various cities by the Chinese Association for European Studies (Beijing), the Institute for International Relations (Hanoi), the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (Kuala Lumpur), the Centre for European Studies (Bangkok) and the Asia Europe Foundation (Singapore). The presentation, studied how Europe has built up its model for integration, and examined the areas in which this has taken place, as well as the inhibitors for further integration. The audiences in the various cities were especially interested in discussing the extent to which this "model" could be a source of inspiration for Asia.

The text of this lecture, as well as her slide presentation may be viewed at www.civdialogue.asef.org.

For more information please contact Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.

"Again an interesting discussion, that focused first around inner-European topics and then turned into a discussion about what inspiration Asia could draw from 'the European Way'. We had a very good discussion on the EU’s CFSP and I was impressed by the quality of the questions. The research fellows know a great deal about the EU in this field and I was challenged and happy to answer their questions."

* Ms. Stumbaum on her lecture in Bangkok – the fourth city in her Tour.

The conference was co-organised with Nanzan University (Japan) and Le Havre University (France).

This conference brought together 48 nationals of ASEM countries from both research and activist backgrounds who came together to discuss what spirituality based social movements have to offer within the framework of globalisation.

The focus of the conference was on the spiritual and religious motivations of social movements that seek to counter the material and profit driven motivations generally associated with globalisation. Participants shared the experiences of groups in their regions, and these were analysed within the framework of the opposite region.

For more information, please contact Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.
Amb. Dr. Colomé joined the International Jury met on 3-6 May at the Goethe Institute Athens to select the participants for the ARTiade 2004 from all the more than 2,500 entries that were received. The Jury, made up of high-qualified curators of the five continents, have selected 83 Artists from 52 Olympic Nations to participate in the ARTIADE 2004, Athens.

These artists will give visitors to the Olympics from far-flung places the opportunity to take time out from the Games and delve into the cultural diversity of the participating countries.

The exhibition ARTiade - Olympics of visual art first took place at Atlanta in 1996 as an accompaniment to the XXVIth Olympic Games. Works were exhibited by artists from nations that were also represented in the sporting events. The ARTiade is based on a concept originating in the ancient Olympic Games. At that time there were art exhibitions alongside the sporting events. Athletes and artists were considered to be of equal merit, and represented two facets of a common culture.

In order to cope with the limited number of Asian-European TV productions and to contribute to more exchange of experiences and know-how between both regions, AIBD, ASEF and the French Government initiated a programme on "Fostering Asia-Europe TV Productions".

This first Seminar in Bali, attended by seven TV producers from Europe, thirteen from Asia and about twenty from Indonesia, was locally supported by Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI). In general, the objectives of this meeting were: to share professional experiences to promote and facilitate Asia-Europe co-production partnerships; to promote Dublin Seminar, especially its pitching contest and funds to be allocated to European-Asian co-productions projects; and also to enhance Asian producers' skills in pitching projects.

This Seminar was also the occasion for ASEF Public Affairs to promote its programme on Asia-Europe TV Documentaries. Check out www.asef.org/direc for the calls for proposals for the pitching session to be held in Dublin, Ireland on 6-8 November 2004, with co-operation of RTE.
Beyond Words programme allowed six selected dance critics from Europe and Asia to follow eight days of performances and exchange with Irish dance critics as well as with the audience.

The week culminated on 22 May 2004 in both the publication of the broadsheet and a Forum with members of the audience to discuss the Festival, dance in Ireland and dance writing. This event, facilitated by Irish dance critic Helen Meaney, was aimed at improving appreciation of dance criticism and contemporary dance both in Asia and Europe.

The selected dance critics were:
- Ms Dewi Ria Utari, Indonesia
- Mr Muto Daisuke, Japan
- Ms Konstanze Klementz, Germany
- Ms Natasha Hassiotis, Greece
- Mr Alongkorn Parivudhiphongs, Thailand
- Ms Lis Hellström Sveningson, Sweden

Feedback from this first event was very encouraging: "It was culturally a very rich experience. Not only was I exposed to a variety of contemporary dances but I also learned a lot about criticism styles and developed networks with other professional critics" (Alongkorn Parivudhiphongs, Thailand).

This programme was supported by ASEF under its ASEF Cultural Grants Programme scheme. Check the ASEF Calendar of events on website for more information.

"The personal level of communication that is possible in such an intimate group is far more enriching than any international panel discussion, because you get to know the individual commitments and ideas as well as the strategies of realising them and furthermore the infrastructural and practical specificity of every national working field. Especially in dance criticism which is still in a state of development, this is the most fruitful exchange".

- Konstanze Klementz, Germany
Students discussed the implications of the EU Enlargement on Relations with Asia

The tenth edition of the ASEF University Programme (AU10) was held at Japan’s oldest private university and one of its most renowned centres of academic excellence, Keio University, from 22 May to 5 June 2004. The timing of the programme provided an excellent occasion for the 38 scholars from 35 universities in ASEM countries to discuss the historic enlargement of the EU to include 10 countries in Central Europe and the Mediterranean and the implications of the enlargement and other initiatives by the EU to deepen regional integration.

The academic programme, which was organised around two modules – Enlargement of the EU and the Future of Europe and Regional Integration in Asia and Asia-Europe Relations, again featured not only distinguished lecturers from the host country, but also senior academics from a number of other Universities in Asia and Europe. Also invited to give AU10 scholars a policy perspective were the Head of the EU Delegation in Tokyo, Ambassador Bernhard Zepter, and the Deputy Head of the Delegation, who was formerly the ASEM Counsellor at the European Commission, Dr Michael Reiterer.

An interesting innovation introduced at AU10 was the holding of two public symposia involving panel discussion by the guest lecturers. The symposia not only allow the participants to listen to different perspectives of the experts on the key issues, but they also allow the general student and academic community in the host university to benefit from the insights of the distinguished speakers.

The next ASEF University Programme will be held from 12 to 26 February 2005 and hosted by the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (or Sciences-Po) in Paris, France. Further updates on the programme and application procedures will be posted on http://www.asef.org/asef-uni.
Thirty Asian and European scholars of democracy from 18 countries found that while there is growing evidence of a universally-shared notion of democracy, there was still room for exploring further the “Asian values” debate which some contended to still represent an East-West divide on democracy.

One of the most interesting discussions came from the presentation of papers that discussed the findings from the Asia-Europe Survey of 'basic societal values' and attitudes to globalisation among citizens conducted at the end of the year 2000 covering 18 countries, 9 in Western Europe and 9 in East/Southeast Asia. The results indicated that, on average, the differences in attitude are greater intra-regionally, within each region, rather than inter-regionally, between the regions.

Mr. Ki-Moon Ban, Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, mentioned in his keynote speech that: “We have high hopes that a union of peace and prosperity which is modelled after the European Union can be realised in Asia in the not-so-distant future. In Europe, we see the future of East Asia.”

The conference was punctuated by presentations from senior and emerging scholars of democracy, notably luminaries of the International Political Science Association such as former International Political Science Association (IPSA) president Prof. Jean Leca of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris; Professor Emeritus Jean Blondel of the European University Institute of Florence (Italy); and, Prof. Takashi Inoguchi of the University of Tokyo. The event was co-organised by the ASEM and the Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS) with an edited book of selected papers planned for eventual publication. The conference was held back-to-back with the inaugural meeting of the Asian Consortium on Political Research held in the same venue on 4th June.

Please visit www.asef.org/democracyweb for more information.

Contact: sol.iglesias@asef.org.

Ten experts in the field of conflict resolution attended this one-day workshop to discuss crisis management, conflict prevention and humanitarian intervention, which will be the focus of the 4th Asia-Europe Roundtable on 19 - 20 April 2005 in Berlin, Germany.
Participants came from the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (Germany); Nordic Institute for Asian Studies (Denmark); Institute of International Economic Relations (Greece); Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Sweden); Asian Research Centre of the Korea University; International Studies Department of the De La Salle University (Philippines); Center for Empowering, Reconciliation and Peace (Indonesia); and the Committee on Non Strategic Violence; National Security Council (Thailand); and, the International Crisis Group. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Member of Parliament of Thailand, attended the meeting.

The publication "Peace and Reconciliation: Success Stories and Lessons from Asia and Europe", was launched at the meeting. It contains the summary report and selected papers from the 3rd Asia-Europe Roundtable on the same theme held on 20-21 October 2003 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Asia-Europe Roundtable (AER) is a joint initiative by Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Office for Regional Co-operation in Southeast Asia (Germany-Singapore office) and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

Contact: sol.iglesias@asef.org.

EXPLORE CHINA 2004
Culture and the Environment: Management of Water Resources in China
8 - 16 June
Beijing, Yichang, the Yangtze, the Three Gorges Dam and Chongqing, China

ASEM youth leaders learnt more about China's water resources management system

Close to 100 youth leaders between 25 to 35 years old representing youth organisations, community groups, environmental organisations and interest groups as well as government agencies in ASEM countries had a closer look at China and were given a deeper insight into its water resources management system during the first Asia-Europe Youth Explore Programme.

The one-week excursion began in Beijing and ended in Chongqing, a bustling city on the bank of the Yangtze, the third longest river in the world. The participants were also taken on a cruise down the dramatically picturesque Yangtze, which took them from Yichang and upstream to Chongqing. A major highlight of the programme was the site visit to the Three Gorges Dam Project, the largest dam project in the world that already has and will continue to have a profound impact on China's social, economic and environmental development as a whole. Participants also visited historical cultural and archaeological sites, villages and towns on and near the great river and witnessed for themselves the effects of the dam project on the surrounding areas. They were also briefed on the China Mother Rivers Protection Project, a nation-wide initiative that is aimed at raising the awareness of the youth of China of the need to conserve China's water resources and encouraging them to contribute towards the protection, preservation and restoration of the life-sustaining rivers of China.

The focus of EXPLORE is on experiential learning. Each EXPLORE programme takes ASEM youth leaders to visit one particular country, to study one specific social or environmental challenge facing the host country and to learn how youth of the host country contributes to efforts to address the challenge. The programme is designed not only to equip participants with theoretical knowledge but also to give participating youth leaders a chance to get some hands-on experience of the impact of the social or environmental issue on the ground through site visits, field trips and discussion sessions with different interest groups and stakeholders.
EXPLORING CHINA 2004
Culture and the Environment: Management of Water Resources in China
8 - 16 June
Beijing, Yichang, the Yangtze, the Three Gorges Dam and Chongqing, China

35th Poetry International Festival, "Asia-Europe" (ASEF Cultural Grants)
12 - 18 June
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

EXPLORING CHINA 2004 was co-organised with the All-China Youth Federation, as well as a number of the provincial and municipal youth organisations.

A special focus on poets from Asia was made possible by the partnership between the Festival and ASEF.

Five Asian Poets were selected to receive ASEF Cultural Grants to attend the festival and they are:

- Yi Won, South Korea
- Yoko Tawada, Japan
- Thanh Thao, Vietnam
- Alfred Yuson, Philippines
- Zhang Zao, China

They read their poems at the festival, and Yi Won's poems were the subject of a translation project. A remarkable film, Visions of Asia was shown: a sequence of short movies shot by Western visitors to Asia around the year 1910. A French composer Henri Tournier wrote music for the film and performed live during the show.
The efforts of civil society actors are indispensable to the building of a community in the two regions.

Connecting civil societies is therefore a key element for a greater and more fruitful cooperation between Asia and Europe. "Civil Society organisations can make a unique contribution to the political, socio-economic and cultural development in Asia and Europe in the preparations to the next ASEM Summit in Hanoi this October", said Bertrand Fort, Co-ordinator of the conference.

The two-day meeting brought about 200 high-level representatives from prominent Civil Society groups in Asia and Europe together to discuss issues of mutual concern, such as:

- human rights and governance;
- environment and urbanisation;
- labour and social issues;
- international relations and security issues;
- trade and development co-operation; and,
- migration as well as interfaith dialogue.

Working groups were organised for participants to discuss concrete plans for partnership within their sector, namely:

- research institutes, think tanks, academics
- NGOs;
- trade unions;
- cultural institutions;
- media; and
- civil society resource organisations and foundations.

The conference provided a platform for constructive dialogue on the future direction of civil society co-operation between Asia and Europe. The Asia-Europe Foundation will then convey the outcome of this consultation to the ASEM governments, a few months before the leaders of the 25 Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) member countries meet for their Fifth Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam on 8-9 October.

Recognising the importance of bridging civil societies in Asia and Europe, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Casa Asia (Spain), the International Institute for Asian Studies (The Netherlands), and the Japan Center for International Exchange (JICIE), co-organised the conference.

For further information about the programme, please visit www.asef.org or www.casaasia.es/ces.
For several centuries, the Silk Road, a collection of trading routes across the great expanse of Eurasia, made possible trade of not just goods and commodities between Asia and Europe, but also facilitated the exchange of ideas, cultures and religions.

The Iron Silk Road, a long-term infrastructure project that will eventually link the Asian and European continents via rail, may be an idea that is of more recent vintage, but its potential impact on inter-regional relations was recognised at ASEM 4 (Copenhagen, Denmark, September 2002) when ASEM Leaders expressed the view that the Iron Silk Road "would indeed have positive effects on region-to-region exchanges". As a follow-up, the ASEM Foreign Ministers endorsed a proposal sponsored by Korea and Finland to organise the ASEM Symposium on the Iron Silk Road at its fifth meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, in July 2003.

The Symposium was organised by the Korea Railroad Research Institute (KRRRI) under the auspices of other Korean agencies. The Governments of China, France, Malaysia and Vietnam also subsequently joined Korea and Finland as co-sponsors of the project.

The two-day symposium was attended by experts and officials from 15 ASEM countries and representatives from countries that will host sections of the Iron Silk Road, including North Korea, Poland, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic, as well as relevant international organisations including the UNESCAP, the Organisation for Cooperation of Railways and the International Union of Railways. Apart from discussing technical aspects of the construction of the Iron Silk Road, the experts also examined the potential social and economic impact of the long-term project.

For more information about the Symposium, please contact yvonne@asef.org.

This meeting was organised back-to-back to the conference "Connecting Civil Society of Asia and Europe", held in Casa Asia, on 16-18 June.

The chair of the steering committee, Mitsuko Horiuchi, Director and Special Regional Advisor on Gender Issues, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Office in Japan, led the meeting, to discuss the third phase of the conference, which will be held early next year. Other members included Prof. Nieves R. Confessor, Dean, Asian Institute of Management (AIM) (Philippines); Monique Halpern, President, French co-ordination for the European Women’s Lobby (CLEF) (France); Fotini Sianou, President, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (Greece); Stefan De Vylder, Stefan de Vylder Economikonsult AB (Sweden); Ismid HADAD, Executive Director, KEHATI-The Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation (Indonesia).

The panel of six experts and the two co-organisers, ASEF and Japan Center of International Exchange (JCIE) exchanged views on the conference. In this phase, the co-organisers will be re-examining economic empowerment of women, by looking at successful cases and conducting site visits. Two task force groups made up of field experts will be formed to carry out cross-regional studies on gender empowerment in both Asia and Europe.

For more information, please contact caroline@asef.org.
The Asia-Europe Seminar on Cultural Policy was jointly organised with the Ministry of Culture of Thailand while practical support was provided by Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, and professional contents were articulated by International Intelligence on Culture, London.

The nature of cultural policies has changed in many countries in recent years. Objectives are being reconsidered, policies become more hybrid and operational structures are reorganised. Economic constraints and pressure to demonstrate the effectiveness of policies has led to the search for, or implementation of, new tools by governments to measure, evaluate and strengthen the cultural sector and its policies. Ministries with cultural portfolios know that delivering cultural policies is increasingly complex. How can ministries assess that what they are doing is effective? What policy options do they have? What can policymakers from European and Asian countries learn from each other?

This Seminar gathered civil servants from culture and related ministries to share their experience and to learn about innovative or good practice in Asia and Europe. Cultural policy analysts, cultural researchers and policymakers that are or have been working for government or quasi-governmental agencies, joined them as speakers or chairpersons to promote a dynamic dialogue, which opened the path to the drafting of recommendations in the field of cultural policy, to be brought up at the political level during ASEM5 in Hanoi (6-8 October 2004).

Check out www.asef.org (under calendar of events 2004) for the summarised recommendations and more information on this Seminar.
ASEM Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Strengthening Asia-Europe Youth Co-operation
28 June - 2 July
Hanoi, Vietnam

ASEM Youth Leaders call on ASEM Government to clarify Sustainable Development indicators and agree to launch the ASEM Youth Network for Sustainable Development

The ASEM Youth Dialogue (AYD) on Sustainable Development, the third instalment of the AYD series, was successfully held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 28 June to 2 July 2004 in partnership with the Vietnam Youth Federation. This year, the dialogue focused on sustainable development, one of the priority issues for the ASEM dialogue process. As sustainable development is essentially about safeguarding the interests of future generations, it is also quite appropriate that it was the theme of the Hanoi Dialogue.

The event attracted about 70 young leaders between 25 to 35 years old, who were nominated by national youth councils, youth organisations, environmental organisations, community interest groups and relevant governmental agencies in ASEM countries. Most came with relevant knowledge and experience. However, to inject more substance into the discussions, international experts on were invited to present their insights and perspectives into such issues like poverty alleviation, education for sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, regional economic co-operation, youth employment, sustainable development indicators and formulation of national sustainable development strategies.

For four days, the youth delegates grappled with the four dimensions of sustainability - social, environmental, economic and institutional - and critically examined progress that had been made at the community, national, regional and inter-regional level. A broad spectrum of viewpoints, reflecting the diverse social and economic backgrounds of the countries represented, was canvassed during the dialogue. Nevertheless, participants converged on most key issues. In general, they recognised that sustainable development is one of the common challenges facing their common future and that it is to the mutual benefit of ASEM countries to intensify efforts to strengthen the ASEM dialogue and co-operation in this area.

This sentiment is captured in the ASEM Youth Statement on Sustainable Development that the participants adopted at the conclusion of the Hanoi Dialogue. The statement contains a number of useful suggestions, including the call for the mainstreaming of youth inputs into the ASEM dialogue on sustainability and environmental matters on the basis of co-management as well as the call for all ASEM countries to develop a quantifiable set of indicators of sustainable development that is publicly available. Perhaps, most significant of all, participants displayed their commitment to build on the Hanoi Dialogue and strengthen Asia-Europe youth co-operation to promote sustainable development by agreeing to launch the ASEM Youth Network for Sustainable Development. The Network will eventually be a useful mechanism to foster the dialogue among youth organisations of ASEM countries on sustainability.

It has become an AYD tradition that a high-level representative of the Government of the host country would attend the Closing Session of the AYD and accept delivery of the ASEM Youth Statement. In keeping with this tradition and as a strong signal of the support of the Vietnamese Government for the AYD process and the contributions of the ASEM youth to the ASEM dialogue process, the Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam, who is also Chairman of the ASEM-5 National Committee, HE Mr Vu Khoan, attended the Closing Session of the Hanoi Dialogue to accept the ASEM Youth Statement on Sustainable Development and pledge that the recommendations contained therein would be communicated to the other ASEM Governments for their consideration. Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan was accompanied by the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Youth Federation, HE Mr Hoang Binh Quan, and the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Mr Do Ngoc Son.
The third series was made in partnership with ITV (Thailand) and TV5 (France).

The Thai station broadcast the two 30-minute programmes entitled, “Thais in France” and “Pridi in Paris” in December 2003 through their regular weekly programme. The French cable channel aired the 60-minute programme on the prominent filmmakers of Thailand and the Thai film industry on 12 June 2004 as part of their popular regular series called “24 hours in...”
Book Donation to Vietnam and ASEM University Contest

On 17 May 2004, Executive Director Amb. Dr. Delfin Colomé, visited the National Library of Vietnam for a Book Donation Ceremony. On the occasion of ASEM Summit being hosted by Vietnam this year, ASEF has donated a total of more than one thousand copies of twelve of its publications.

Members of the European Chamber of Commerce and other European Business groups gathered in the afternoon for a discussion on "ASEM 5: What Businesses Should Know?" Amb Dr. Delfin Colomé shared his views on the ASEM process.

Mr. Tran Duc Minh, Deputy Minister of Trade focused on "The Asia-Europe Business Forum" while Mr. Tran Duc Loi, Chairman of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisation, discussed "The ASEM People-to-People Forum".

It was also the occasion to officially launch "ASEM University Contest". This contest is an initiative of ASEF, the Vietnam Student Union and the Delegation of the European Commission, Vietnam. This will be a multi-staged contest, involving more than thirty-three universities from five major cities in Vietnam, namely, Hanoi, Hue, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho between May and September 2004.

Contact: laiyee@asef.org.
ASEMUS (Asia-Europe Museum Network), a flagship project of ASEF’s Cultural Exchange, is currently coordinating the integration of marketing and communications for the 8 pilot projects launched at the recently concluded corporate and media development event called Museum Hopping in Singapore last March 2004. The results, including the plans of ASEMUS will be reported back to the museum community at the 20th General Conference of the International Committee of Museums (ICOM) to be held in Seoul, Korea on 2-8 October 2004.

As a follow-up to the fund raising efforts, a series of campaign materials are being produced to generate awareness on museum matters. Copies of the Museum Hopping booklet and an 11-minute video are available to those interested in supporting and partnering with ASEMUS.

With the support of DYR Alcantara, a Manila-based international advertising agency, ASEMUS will also have print media and a 30-second TV campaign, which will initially be released in Asian brochures and television stations by July 2004. This campaign will carry the tagline: How Much Do You Really Know? Know More. Share More.

The ASEMUS website www.asemus.org will fully be operational in the same month.

For further inquiries and to request for ASEMUS materials, please contact Vanini Belarmino via email (vanini@asef.org) or at telephone: +65-6874 9724.
ASEFUAN (the ASEF University Alumni Network) has started the on-line journal ‘Asia-Europe Voices’ (AEV), covering contemporary issues affecting both Asia and Europe. This Virtual Silk Road will serve as a platform for current university students, recent graduates and professionals to share their views, research and experiences in forms of academic articles, shorter free-styled essays and book reviews. While ‘Asia-Europe Voices’ is a multi-disciplinary journal, each issue will have a thematic focus. The first issue addresses ‘Trends in Dialogues between and within Asia and Europe’ and can be accessed from July 30, 2004, at www.asefuan.org/journal. The official launch will take place at ASEFUAN’s Annual General Meeting in Singapore at the end of August 2004.

For more information, submissions or if you would consider having ‘Asia-Europe Voices’ linked to your or your institution’s homepage, please contact Editor-in-Chief Johanna Lahdenperä at asiaeuropevoices@hotmail.com.

SEA Images website (http://sea-images.asef.org) aims at becoming a unique source of information for cinema professionals from Europe and Asia. While visiting, you can find calls for entries and information on film events in Europe and Asia, film resource directories for 24 Asian and European countries as well as relevant articles on issues related to the promotion of independent cinema (up-coming film makers, film schools, new film projects etc).

The website was first launched on 30 January 2004 during the Göteborg Film Festival, Sweden and was also presented as part of the 16th Singapore International Film Festival on 16 April 2004 to invited guests from the film industry and cultural organisations.

Come and visit regularly to learn more about the following two events:
1) Third Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, in co-operation with 6th Jakarta International Film Festival (8-12 December 2004). Look out for the call for proposals for young film producers from ASEM countries. Deadline is 1 August 2004.
2) Fourth Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, in co-operation with Women International Film Festival, Creteil, France. Look out for the call for proposals for young filmmakers from ASEM countries. Deadline is 30 September 2004.

Apitchapong Weerasakul (Thailand) won the Jury prize for his film “Tropical Malady” at the Cannes Film Festival 2004. This prize will definitely give a boost to more recognition to independent cinema in Thailand and in the South East Asian region.

Apitchapong had received the ASEF Cultural Grant for Blissfully Yours at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival (November 2002) as well as for his installation with Christelle Lheureux in the MixMax exhibition (ArtSonje Centre, Seoul, Korea, February - April 2004).
Chulamanee Chartsuwan, Director, Cultural Exchange was invited to give a speech on ASEF and its role as a multilateral structure for cultural cooperation in the Conference "Networking for the Arts in Europe" (20 - 22 May 2004, Cork, Ireland). This conference, organised by the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism for Ireland 2004 Presidency of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Cultural Foundation, aimed at bringing more awareness on institutional cooperation and multilateral initiatives to promote artists’ mobility and circulation of artistic works.

The multilateral cultural co-operation aspect of the work of ASEF - in the fields of young artists’ exchange, networks among professionals (Museums, Cinema, TV) and cultural dialogue (cultural policy makers and artists’ networks) - is more and more recognised as an added value to international cultural exchange, as had been shown already in "Cultural Cooperation in Europe: what role for Foundations?" For more details: www.fitzcarraldo.it

CALL FOR PROPOSALS


The European Alliance for Asian Studies and the Asia-Europe Foundation welcome proposals for workshops on themes of common interest to Asia and Europe, to take place in 2005/2006.

Deadline 1 February 2005

www.asia-alliance.org AND www.aews.asef.org
Hội nghị cấp cao ASEM-5 là cơ hội tốt để Việt Nam giới thiệu Nông nghiệp

Hồ Chí Minh, Việt Nam
18/05/2004

Quê Á - Âu tạo tiềm năng cho ASEM: chuyện từ một thuộc düşün

Ng. Văn Hùng, Việt Nam
18/05/2004

Gearing up for ASEM-5

Delvin Caven, executive director of the Asia
Europe Foundation (ASEF), says the founding of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was a result of the
comprehensive cooperation between Europe and Asia.

ASEM Influence: The Philadelphia Worldview,
Vietnam Investment Review, Vietnam
17/05/2004

Opportunity knocks for S'pore in bigger EU

Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore
17/05/2004

Korea Times
04/06/2004

Third Round of 6-Party Nuke Talks to Begin June 23

Chosun Ilbo, Korea
29/05/2004

ASEM can co nhung hoat dong cu the hoi

Lao Dong, Vietnam
17/05/2004

First Magazine, Singapore
01/05/2004

Koran Tempo, Indonesia
29/05/2004

Der Standard, Austria
30/04/2004

The Jakarta Post, Indonesia
07/05/2004

The Straits Times, Singapore
04/05/2004

ASEF IN THE NEWS
3 – 10 July
Hanoi, Vietnam
Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2004
Co-organised with the Ministry of Culture and Information, Vietnam and World Press Photo Foundation, The Netherlands

16 – 18 July
Neumarkt, Austria
Europa-Forum Neumarkt (PR Event) "Reformaussichten für die erweiterte EU" (in German)
Organised by Karl Brunner Europahaus Neumarkt, sponsored by ASEF

20 July – 6 September
Asia and Europe
3rd Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange
Co-organised with the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service

25 – 27 July
Singapore
Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Programme, 3rd Talks on the Hill "Spotlight on Television: Dimensions of Media Influence on Public Opinion and Foreign Policy in Asia and Europe”

29 July – 11 August
Vienna, Austria
Branding Asian and European Youth: An Intercultural Youth Exchange in Austria (ASEF Youth Connections Grant)
Co-organised with the Austrian Committee for International Youth Co-operation and the Austrian Young Workers Movement

7 – 17 August
Bangkok, Thailand
8th Thai Short Film & Video Festival
Organised by Thai Film Foundation and supported by ASEF Cultural Grants

14 – 22 August
Finland-Sweden
12th International Symposium of Electronic Art 2004 (ASEF Cultural Grants)
Organised by m-cult, Centre for Media Culture, Finland and produced with Photo Society for the Electronic Arts (ISEA)

25 – 28 August
Stockholm, Sweden
Asia-Europe Environment Forum Third Roundtable "Technology Partnerships for Renewables: Key to Energy Security”
To be held during the Euroscience Open Forum 2004, co-organised with the Institute for Global Environment Strategies with support of the Government of Japan, and the United Nations Environment Programme

27 – 29 August
Singapore
3rd Annual General Meeting of the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN)
Organised by ASEFUAN

1 – 4 September
Paris, France
Education, Science and Technology 4th Euroseas Conference
Co-organised with Association française pour la recherché sur l’Asie du Sud-Est (French Association for Southeast Asian Research)

16 – 17 September
Suzhou, China
6th ASEM Seminar on Human Rights "International Migration and Human Rights”
Co-organised with Raoul Wallenberg Institute (Sweden) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

17 – 19 September
Hanoi, Vietnam
Cultural Diversity and Cultural Exchange Seminar
Co-organised with Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam and the French Community of Belgium

19 – 21 September
Seoul, Korea
Asia-Europe Press Forum 2004
Co-organised with JoongAng Ilbo and Korea Press Foundation

24 – 30 September
Hanoi, Vietnam
Asia-Europe Photography Exhibition (Based on the forums 2003 and 2004)
Co-organised with the Ministry of Culture and Information, Vietnam and World Press Photo Foundation, the Netherlands

27 September – 1 October (tbc)
Germany
4th AEC International Teachers’ Conference
Co-organised with Kreisgymnasium Neustadt

September - October
Vietnam
ASEM Performing Arts Festival

29 – 30 September
Hanoi, Vietnam
Young Fashion Design from Asia and Europe Workshop

2 October
Hanoi, Vietnam
9 October
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Pop/Rock Hip Hop Concert

3 October
Hanoi, Vietnam
6 October
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Fashion Show