Asia-Europe Press Forum 2004 19 – 21 September / Seoul, Korea

The Asia-Europe Press Forum, hosted by JoongAng Ilbo of Korea, is an annual gathering of leading newspaper editors and journalists.

Originally named the Asia Press Forum, it was formed in 1996 to promote exchange and cooperation among leading editors and to provide Asia with a vision for the 21st Century.

Topics for discussion included improved transcontinental relations, the role of the U.S. and Asia’s rising influence as a major trade partner. There was strong interest in security on the Korean peninsula and on prospects for Korean reunification. The forum provided an opportunity for the active exchange of opinions from an international gathering of distinguished editors and journalists from twenty countries of Asia and Europe.

(cont’d)

(From left) William Pfaff (IHT), Everidiki Bersi (Kathimerini), Hans van der Lught (NRC Handelsblad), Daniel Vernet (Le Monde), Richard Lloyd Parry (The Times)

William Pfaff, columnist of the IHT noted in his keynote speech that "regardless of who wins the US election this November, the US will increasingly reveal its difference from its allies of Asia and Europe".

At the second session, keynote speaker, Kavi Chongkittavorn, the Assistant Group Editor of The Nation (Thailand), argued that while Europe was renewing itself as a common bloc, Asia was still engaged in exhausting debates, pointing out, "the Asian leaders have vision for the future but lack the courage and political will to make a new Asia."

Dr. Albrecht Rothacher, ASEF’s Director for Public Affairs, alluded to lessons East Asia could draw from European Integration and to experiences of German unification which would be useful to Korea.

The final day of this lively Press Forum kick-started with the Korean Political Leaders Roundtable session, which saw the participation of Lee Bu-young, Chairman of Uri Party and Park Geun-hye, the Chairwoman of Grand National Party.

In the run up to the ASEM Summit, three teams of university students demonstrated their knowledge on ASEM and pitted their wits against each other in the finals of the ASEM Student Contest on 2 October. The contest ran throughout this summer in Hanoi, Hue, Can Tho, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang.

They have beaten 30 other teams to emerge finalists in this contest.

The contest was organised jointly by ASEF, the Delegation of European Commission in Vietnam and the Vietnam Student Union.
Twenty young photojournalists from 19 different ASEM countries took part in the first ASEM 5-related cultural event, the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2004, organised by Ministry of Culture and Information, Vietnam, Vietnam Pictorial, World Press Photo and Asia-Europe Foundation.

Apart from attending presentations and sharing experiences with their four tutors - (Hoai Linh, Vietnam Pictorial; Ruth Eichhorn director of photography, Geo Magazin (Germany); Alberto "Bullit" Marquez, Associated Press (Philippines); John Staumeyer, photographer, Time Magazine (USA/Bali) (specially invited by World Press Photo Foundation) - the young photographers also worked on assignments related to "Urban environment" in Hanoi. This Forum was for them a unique experience to learn more about assignments, personal projects, marketing and "business" of the work of photojournalism.

"I think we were all very lucky because it was a mixed but harmonious group. Everybody let everybody in his/her secrets and shared. I can clearly see that Asian photographers try very hard to reach international standards. They have a big chance to do that for several reasons. One is, that they are very well organised and reliable. I have a good overview of how the next generations of photographers are developing in Germany, but no idea how young photographers struggle in other countries. Therefore this experience was very enlightening for me." - Ruth Eichhorn, Director of Photography, Geo Magazin

Selected photographs from this Forum together with those from the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2003 (held in Amsterdam) could be seen during the Asia-Europe Exhibition "Migrations" and "Urban Environment" from 24 to 30 September 2004 at Hang Bai Exhibition Centre and from 6 to 10 October 2004 at National Cinema Centre. Visitors had the chance to discover more about positive aspect of Migrations in Amsterdam as well as the contrasted aspects of Hanoi from its more traditional patterns to its most recent developments.

The exhibition will then travel to Amsterdam and Singapore. The Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2005 will be held in Paris, France in cooperation with the European House of Photography.

For more information, contact marcellosourd@asef.org and visit http://www.asef.org/dri/cc/photos2004 for selected photographs of the Forum 2004.
**UPDATE**

**Europa-Forum Neumarkt (PR Event)**
“Reformaussichten fur die erweiterte EU” (in German)
16 – 18 July
Neumarkt, Austria

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_Forchtenstein_ castle in Neumarkt, a small town in the Styrian Alps, is the seat of the regional Europe-House, the place where European federalists not only from Austria, but also from the rest of Europe meet and discuss recent European policy events and prospects for federal unity.

As there is a fair amount of European introspection, ASEF proposed to add an Asian dimension to the annual deliberations of the “Europa-Forum” held in July. PA Director, Dr. Albrecht Rothacher, gave his views on the evolution of the EU’s policies towards East Asia: How member states’ different historical orientations and distinct perceptions were gradually merged, and how Asia attempted to arrive at common positions in response for the bi-continental dialogue, which is currently known as the still fairly informal and uncommittal ASEM process.

Three speakers from Asia, Professor Shaocheng Tang from Chengchi University, China, Tokiko Kiyota, a director at Japan Foundation, Tokyo, and Terence Tan, Director of Administration at ASEF spoke on their countries’ perceptions of Europe's integration and how Asia might learn and benefit from the European experience.

The audience, composed of 200 people from all walks of life - ministers and ambassadors from Vienna as well as local farmers and students from East Europe - showed strong interest as evident in a very lively and animated discussion with the panellists. Media interest was equally strong. Even some papers in far-away Luxemburg carried stories.

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_Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Programme: 3rd ASEF “Talks on the Hill” - “A Spotlight on Television: Dimensions of Media Influence on Foreign Policy and Public Opinion in Asia & Europe”_
25 – 27 July
Singapore

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The 3rd “Talks on the Hill” saw the participation of 14 prominent and distinguished individuals either directly involved in the workings of the mass media or engaged in studying its behaviour and impact.

Once again, the intimate, closed-door format of the meeting proved conducive for an intense and open debate on pertinent and sensitive issues regarding the role television plays in our modern societies.

(cont’d)
Major themes of the meeting included:
- The media's portrayal of events and people in culturally distinct countries;
- Influence and pressure exerted on media reporting by governments, lobby groups, advertisers, investors and other actors;
- The "CNN Effect" or the television medium's impact on foreign policy and public opinion;
- The growth of media federations, institutes and other self-regulating groups.

For a report of the meeting as well as the profiles of the participants, please visit www.civdialogue.asef.org or contact Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.

"I had a very interesting time listening to the various experiences across both continents. Much of the research and academic literature available to me is from the USA and the UK so this gave me a much broader view of how television is experienced in countries and regions outside the two countries that dominate the global 'mediasphere'." - David Celestre, Director for Current Affairs and Channel Operations, ANC, (Philippines)

Discussion and dialogue at the meeting is eased by an informal atmosphere.

8th Thai Short Film and Video Festival
7 - 17 August
Bangkok, Thailand

ASEF supported this event, organised by Thai Film Foundation through its ASEF Cultural Grants Programme.

Five young filmmakers' participation was supported by ASEF to attend the yearly event in Bangkok focused on short film and video:

Christophe Stenner, Germany, Zaida Bergroth, Finland, Iao Lethem, Belgium, Jenn Jonsson, Sweden and Anthonin Peretjatko, France.

Also invited as part of the jury for international competition of short films and VDO was Amaia Torrecilla, Director of the Barcelona Asian Film Festival.

The grantees got the chance not only to present their short films to the public but also to understand more on the Thai film industry and the Thai National Archives through film school and archives' visits. They participated in a public forum on 15 August 2004, on inspiration sources for films, which was moderated by Thai woman filmmaker Pimpaka Towira.

You can read more about the 8th Thai Short Film and Video Festival in the article by Tintin Wulia, Indonesian film curator/ film critic and also jury member in the international competition of this Festival, at http://sea-images.asef.org

(cont'd)
ASEF’s next participation in a Film Festival through its ASEF Cultural Grants Programme will be in Rome, Italy, during the Asian Film Festival (10-14 November 2004). The focus will be on young film critics, while trying to deepen understanding of independent cinema in both regions.

For more information, contact marielesourd@asef.org

ISEA 2004 symposium united researchers, designers and artists in a unique setting while exploring the wireless, wearable and networked media.

ASEF Cultural Grants allowed four young media artists to take part in this unique international event. The ASEF cultural grantees were:

- Yoshio Machida, Japan (Project - infini: speed of light)
- Youngmi Kim, Korea (Project - Digital block, Funny Body)
- Bundith Phinombathart, Thailand (Project - Path of Illusion) - who also won the UNESCO Grant during the ISEA event
- RE Hartanto, Indonesia (Project - Helsinki City Surgery)

ASEF was also represented during the International Expert Meeting on Media Art and New Media Culture Policy (22-23 August 2004), an event organised by IFACCA, Arts Council of Finland and m-cult for new media culture. The meeting led to the drawing of the Helsinki agenda, with recommendations for more support to new media arts in a long-term perspective, at a national and international level.

This field of new media arts is of high interest for ASEF, which, among others, will start to focus its new series of Asia-Europe Art Camps on Art and New Technology (the Second Asia-Europe Art Camp will be held in Tokyo, on 22 October-2 November 2004, in partnership with Arts Initiative Tokyo).

For more information, contact marielesourd@asef.org or visit website www.isea2004.net
**Tertiary students from more than 25 Asian and European countries participated in the first Model ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) on adopting roles as “Heads of States”, and debated on issues of pertinence to contemporary Asia-Europe relations and the ASEM process.**

The Model ASEM simulation, organised by the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and ASEF, created a unique opportunity for youths to gain deeper insights into the ASEM process and to develop a balanced appreciation of the process for not only its strengths but also its limitations.

"Efforts of to understand ASEM better and to create a programme that would heighten awareness of ASEM among other young people in ASEAN countries augur well for the future of ASEM. Without the sustained interest of young people, ASEM has little impact and little future," said Zainal Mantaha, Director for People-to-People Exchange at Asia-Europe Foundation.

European students played the roles of Asian premiers and Asian students adopted the voices of European leaders, assuming their roles "with much conviction, seriousness and sensitivity towards the interests of their adopted country."

The simulation comprised of 3 closed sessions where the heads of delegations debated freely on the enlargement of ASEM, economic and financial cooperation and finally the social, cultural and education exchanges between Asia and Europe.

The opening statements set the tone for the next session. Topics like terrorism, the reconstruction of Iraqi society, weapons of mass destruction and the security of the Korean peninsula were broached.

The accession of Myanmar drew plenty of debate amongst the students. Some student representatives were content to allow Myanmar to participate but with unequal membership stripped of voting rights. Other representatives, notably those of the Asian contingents, were adamant against unequal membership emphasising that it violated the principle of the Asia-Europe Meeting where members come together as equals. "Isolation is not the best way to deal with the political situation in Myanmar" summed up this war.

The simulation concluded on a promising note: from observers to organisers, all saw that there is a lot of potential for future simulations of ASEAN. For the upcoming ASEAN Summit, dialogue on important aspects such as economic and social collaboration stood in the shadow of the enlargement dispute which is largely held hostage by lasting contention regarding Myanmar's accession to ASEM, as mirrored in the student debates.

"After the devastating experiences in the 20th century, EU enlargement gives us the chance to undo the separation of Europe and seize the chance to create a continent of enduring peace and well-being for its citizens. This for me is what EU-enlargement is really about. We now have to realise that the enlargement of ASEAN is also a historical chance we should seize," said one of the students in her address.
The former Chairman of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Preparatory Council, Dr. Emil Salim of Indonesia, and Prof. Michael Grubb, Policy Director of The Carbon Trust of the United Kingdom, were among the 45 prominent Asian and European experts on renewable energies that participated in the 3rd Roundtable of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum.

Scientists and journalists attend the Roundtable's conclusion, a scientific session of the ESOF 2004.

Mr. Krister Nilsson, State Secretary of the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, officially opened the Roundtable, which saw the participation of 20 Stockholm-based observers, indicating the significance of renewable energy in Sweden, which has the second highest renewable usage for national electricity consumption in Europe. Hosted by the Stockholm Environment Institute, the 3rd Roundtable dovetailed the International Conference for Renewable Energies held in Bonn, Germany attended by 154 countries, a few months earlier. It reiterated the declaration that renewable energy should play a major role in the energy economy of the 21st century - a development with important implications for co-operation and renewable energy investment between Asia and Europe.

Internationally-renowned experts, Michael Grubb and Emil Salim in an impassioned discussion over the importance of renewable energies.

This event launched the publication titled "Reinforcing Asia-Europe Co-operation on Climate Change," proceedings of the 2nd Roundtable of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum held in Jeju, Korea. The proceedings of the 3rd Roundtable will be published in the following months.

ASEF and the Swedish Institute sponsored the participation of 20 competitively-selected Asian scientists to attend the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2004 -- the first pan-European initiative in the field of science and technology in which over 1800 persons participated (350 being international journalists). The Roundtable concluded with a scientific session at this prestigious Forum and a booth was set up in the ESOF exhibition hall over four days so that ASEF programmes could be introduced to members of the scientific community and to the general public.

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum is a partnership among the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, and the United Nations Environment Programme.
This meeting provided me with knowledge about bridging the gap between Asia and Europe with regard to experiences in the implementation of renewable energy technologies.... What I observed is that there are potentials for co-operation between Asia and Europe provided that there is an understanding about the context of the challenges faced by each region." Maria Retnarestri of Indonesia (one of sponsored Asian scientists who was invited to attend the Roundtable).

For further information, please visit http://env.asf.org or contact Sol Iglesias at sol.iglesias@asef.org

**New ideas to bring together students and young people from all walks of life flowed from the Third Annual General Meeting of the ASEF University Alumni Network, held at the National Community Leadership Institute in Singapore.**

Sixty-seven alumni from 20 countries in Asia and Europe, coming from the past ten sessions of the flagship ASEF University Programme took part in discussions on how to strengthen the organisation, and brainstormed on new projects to promote Asia-Europe relations among young Asians and Europeans. Vassilis Bontosoglou, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Singapore, praised the Network and called for greater efforts to increase such exchanges among young people within ASEM.

ASEFUAN took the opportunity to launched several projects: the simulation of a Model ASEM Summit, with the view to enhance the visibility of the ASEM process among students in the two regions, shall pave the way for a Model ASEM Summit organised in the run-up of 6th ASEM Summit in Finland of 2006. The first edition of an online journal entitled "Asia-Europe Voices" catalysed a network for young scholars and researchers focussed on Asia-Europe relations.

Distinguished practitioners from Singapore were invited to share their perspectives on key aspects to strengthen the network. Peter Schoppert, Managing Director of Singapore University Press, presented best practices in online journalism, with reference to managing a cross-regional inter-disciplinary e-journal. Valerie Tan, Vice President of the Singapore Association of Fundraisers, gave tips on the fundamentals of fundraising and financial management for non-profit youth organisations.

Dr Tan Joo Seng, Associate Professor on Strategy, Management and Organisation at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, offered a model on effective cross-cultural networking.

The Network also discussed terrorism, expressing its concern with its escalation and its impact to impede intercultural dialogue and understanding. Dr Kumar Ramakrishna, a noted expert on terrorism at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, presented a study on the role of propaganda in the current global economy in his lecture on the "Dimensions of Terrorism".

President Laurent Frideres from Luxembourg and Singaporean Vice President Kelvin Teo, together with Executive Committee members Sarah Hemipel (Denmark), Silke Aumann (Germany), Helen Chin (Korea) and Emma Park (Korea) will carry forward the Network's mission and mandate into the next year.
Southeast Asian Studies Scholars gathered for the 4th EUROSEAS Conference in Paris in the historic setting of the Sorbonne University in Paris, the world’s second oldest university. About 500 scholars gathered for the 4th European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) conference, hosted by the French Association for Southeast Asian Studies (AFRASE) and the Asia-Europe Foundation.

This event consisted of 32 thematic panels and 3 roundtables spanning a wide range of fields—history, anthropology, sociology, political science, archaeology and many others.

Held once every three years since its inauguration in 1992, EUROSEAS has seen a steadily increasing participation and has established a name for itself in the field of Southeast Asian Studies (the previous meetings were held in Leiden, 1995; Hamburg, 1998; London, 2001). It is one of the largest network of Asian and European academics and experts of Southeast Asian studies. This year, ASEF is proud to have given this vibrant bi-regional research community an extra boost. Through its Intellectual Exchange programme, ASEF financed the participation of 60 Asian research scholars from East/Southeast Asia to enhance the direct interaction of the scholars from the two regions.
Prominent personalities, Domingo L. Siazon, Jr., former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and current Ambassador to Japan; and Xavier Darcos, Minister of International Co-operation, Development and Francophonie, France served as the keynote speakers for this prestigious event. ASEF also hosted the Opening Roundtable on "The Impact of EU/ASEM Enlargement: Threat or Opportunity for Asia-Europe Relations?" which featured prominent European and Asian policy makers and speakers from the academy, namely Domingo L. Siazon; Wim Stokhof, International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, The Netherlands; Rodolfo Severino, former Secretary-General of ASEAN and Visiting Senior Fellow of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; and Marc Abensour, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Asia Oceania Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France. The Roundtable highlighted the issue of enlargement during a critical period only weeks before the 5th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit.

"ASEF has done a great deal to promote exchanges, through contacts between our societies on issues of common concern, through student exchanges, through seminars for academics, young business leaders and members of parliament...It was only natural, therefore, for ASEF to be the joint organiser of this conference." In his Keynote Speech, HE Xavier Darcos, Minister Delegate for Co-operation, Development and Francophonie, emphasised the important role of ASEF in this years conference.


Contact: natalia@asef.org

The Asia-Europe Conference of Student Union Leaders (AE-Consult) was organised with the support of Stockholms Studentkårsers Centralorganisation (SSCO, the Federation of Student Unions of Stockholm) to bridge the existing differences among the student unions in terms of their mission, objective, agenda, structure and membership. The AE-Consult also aimed to facilitate the establishment of new partnership and friendship among the participating student unions.

18 student union leaders from 15 ASEM countries participated in the conference. Mr Erland Ringborg, Swedish member of ASEF Board of Governors and Director-General of the Swedish Institute, also rendered his support for the inaugural AE-Consult by presenting on the topic, "Contributions of Students and Student Unions to National Development and International Understanding" on the second day of the conference.
At the forum, the delegates shared their views with regards to the varied structures and roles of the participating student unions. They demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the diversities among the student unions in Asia and Europe, and were optimistic that they could narrow their differences over time through more communication and face-to-face exchanges. Through their interactions, they had expanded contacts with their counterparts in other regions, exchanged experiences, learnt about best practices and explored possibilities of mutually-beneficial cooperation.

Major highlights of the cultural programme of the AE-Consult included visits to the nostalgic Old Town of Stockholm, the beautiful City Hall where Nobel Prize festivities are held, and the Vasa Museum that houses the treasures and artefacts of the Royal Warship Vasa that sank on its maiden voyage in 1628. The delegates were also given a tour around the prestigious medical university in Stockholm – Karolinska Institutet.

Public Lecture – “Prospects of the Barroso Commission – Implications for Europe & for Asia”
14 September
Singapore

_With almost 15 years of experience in policy issues related to the external relations of the European Union, Dr. Fraser Cameron, Director of Studies at the European Policy Centre in Brussels, delivered a public lecture on Asia-Europe relations under European Commission’s new president._

The hour-long lecture focused on the economic, political and external challenges that impact on the Asia-Europe relationship under the new leadership of the European Commission.
Dr. Cameron commented that the European Commission has a good mix of politicians and technocrats. He also anticipated that it would have a quiet first two years until Constitution became ratified. Meanwhile, the European Commission would lead EU to develop steadily as a global actor, especially on the economic perspective. Being a good communicator and showing his potential as European Commission’s new president, Jose Manuel Barroso, currently the Prime Minister of Portugal, already started well with his mission. Apart from Barroso, Dr. Cameron also gave insights into the strengths and policy preferences of various Commissioners in relation to their assigned portfolios.

Dr. Cameron highlighted the challenges which the EU would face in the future. Facing similar problems as Asia, EU needed to figure out reasonable solutions to assure full employment in the age of globalization, to deal with the consequences of an aging society, as well as to maintain the planet’s sustainability. The lack of substantial relations between Asia and EU was also raised as a crucial issue.

A discussion, chaired by Amb. Delfin Colomé, was held among participants from embassies, educational and research institutions, and think tanks, following Dr. Cameron’s speech.

The press release, as well as the bio data of Dr. Cameron can be viewed at http://www.asef.org/dir/PA/040914 Cameron.

For more information please contact Soh Lai Yee at laiye@asef.org.
The 6th ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights series was hosted by China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Suzhou, near Shanghai.

The event was opened with a speech from Mr. Shen Guofang, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, China, as well as two keynote speakers, Dato' Param Cumaraswamy, Vice-President, The International Commission of Jurists; and Mr John Evans, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD.

A total of 70 participants representing academia, trade unions, NGOs and governments brought forward ideas and recommendations in dealing with migratory movements and the challenges faced by policy-makers posed by the affected country or regions.

The seminar highlighted the protection of the human rights of migrants into all stages of migration management including repatriation when necessary, focusing on:

1. Overview on the status of international migrants in Asia and in Europe and the International Law Framework;
2. The trafficking of humans beings and Asia-Europe co-operation.

The ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights series is co-organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (with the support of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Asia-Europe Foundation (who holds the secretariat and is supported by the European Commission).

For further information, please contact Caroline Say at caroline@asef.org
The Seminar on Cultural Diversity and Cultural Exchange was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Culture, Vietnam and the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

Attended by more than 70 stakeholders in cultural policy development in Asia and Europe, the Seminar synthesised the key issues of cultural diversity on 1) Legal Reference Mark and Society Values; 2) Humanistic, Social and Economic Arguments; 3) Artistic Expressions, Culture and Cultural Markets; 4) State Responsibility; 5) Cultural Contents and Subsidiarity.

This seminar was among the 3 meetings in the series of cultural policy dialogue programmed by ASEF for the ASEM Summit 5. Prior to this event, ASEF organized ASEARTS Asia-Europe Arts Promotion Agencies Network in Singapore in November 2003 and the Seminar on Cultural Policy in Bangkok in June 2004. Consolidated reports of these dialogues were submitted to the ASEM Summit 5 through the Vietnamese Ministry of Information and Culture.

Vietnam’s Prof. Nguyen Chi Ben chaired the Asian Scientific Committee, with members Savitri Suwansathit (Thailand), Fumio Nanjo (Japan) and Jiang Dong (China). Professor Andre Nayer (Belgium) spearheaded the European Scientific Committee, with Joost Smiers (the Netherlands) and Helene Ruiz Fabre (France).

For further information on the project, contact Vanini Belarmino at vanini@asef.org.
A flagship programme under the Asia-Europe Classroom (AEC), the International Teachers' Conference gives high school teachers and educators in Asia and Europe the opportunity to collaborate on ICT (or infocomm technology) projects with special relevance to their schools' curricula to promote intercultural learning.

The fourth installment of the AEC International Teachers’ Conference had gathered some 65 teachers to initiate eight promising new online projects. These projects will be implemented by the participating schools over a span of eight months, after which they would be assessed for the AEC Award, a cash prize of USD 2,500.

As with past AEC International Teachers' Conferences, the AEC conferred AEC Awards on three of the most outstanding online collaborative learning projects completed from the last AEC International Teachers’ Conference in Bogor, Indonesia in September 2003. The winning groups of the AEC Award 2004 were “iContrast@VHome”, “Peace Project” and “The Students’ Online Magazine”. The finalists contending for the AEC Award at the 4th AEC International Teachers’ Conference included “Ndolalak and Hambo”, a joint project among the high schools in Indonesia and Sweden, and “Science Beyond the Classroom”, a collaboration among the high schools in Finland, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

Besides providing an opportunity for the teacher participants to share in ICT projects, the Conference enabled participants to better understand of the different aspects of the host country, Germany, through visits to cultural sites and local schools in Schleswig-Holstein.

For more information on the outcome of 4th AEC International Teachers’ Conference, please visit http://www.aec.aecf.org.
The Workshop was co-organised with the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture and Information and the European Cultural Centres represented by the Goethe Institut, Hanoi, in conjunction with the ASEM Summit 5.

Under the theme of “Tradition Meets Future”, ten invited designers from Denmark, Italy, Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand including five Vietnamese designers presented their fashion collection during the workshop held on 29-30 September at the premises of the Goethe Institut in Hanoi. Dr. Ingrid Loschek, a German professor of fashion design and history, and Mrs. Minh Hanh, Director of FADIN, facilitated this two-day exchange.

A fashion show was organised at the end of the workshop at the Hilton Ballroom featuring more than 20 creations from each of the 13 up and coming couturiers.
In recent years, the world has seen a rise of international gatherings and symposia focusing on the growing emergence of autonomous art and cultural centres, and the issues that surface in the operations of such centres.

These symposia have been especially instrumental in spreading awareness in Asia of the movement to adapt innovative structures of organising artistic and cultural projects and contemporary art and society. With this growing awareness comes the need to branch out and exchange knowledge and ideas to the rest of the world, especially Europe, where some art centres already enjoy a respected reputation. (Artfactories and BizArt, Shanghai, initiation of the event in Shanghai)

The purpose of this meeting - gathering about 40 representatives from Asian and European art centres - was to establish a workable network among autonomous art centres from Europe and Asia, wherein exchanges (artistically and intellectually) and projects can be implemented in a sustainable way. ASEF supported this initiative as part of its new programme, Asia Europe Artists' Laboratories, which aims at stimulating a new environment where artistic projects and exchange between Asia and Europe could be tested and developed among artists' spaces and artists' networks.

The three-day event allowed discussions on management, artistic process and involvement of local communities, funding issues of these autonomous cultural centres. Highlight of the conclusion seminar was the need for "training" among cultural centres to use positively this pool of cultural professionals "to spread the vision and passion that art can change life" (Paolo Naldini, Director, Cittadellarte Fondazione Pistoletto). This need expressed for training was a good opportunity for ASEF to present its staff exchange pilot project between centres from Europe and Asia.

Check out http://www.artfactories.net and http://www.biz-art.com for more details on these centres.

For more information, contact marielesourd@asef.org
SEA-images website

SEA-images website (http://sea-images.asef.org), an ASEF subsite, aims at becoming a unique tool of information for cinema professionals from Europe and Asia. Since its launch on 30 January 2004, in Goteburg, Sweden, during the 2nd Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, and a web presentation in conjunction with 17th Singapore International Film Festival in April 2004, the website has attracted more than 280,000 hits by mid September.

Three postcard designs were made to promote the website. They were first distributed at 8th Thai Short Film and Video Festival, held during 7-17 August 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand, followed by ASEM Film Festival held in Hanoi in conjunction with ASEM Summit 5. Next on the list are Asian Film Festival in Rome, Italy, to be held during 10-14 November 2004 and 3rd Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, during 8-12 December 2004.

ASEF is in the midst of revamping this website to be more user friendly. Do let us have your feedback so that we can further improve the site to provide a better information tool for you. Visit us regularly to check-out the latest news, articles, call for entries and the useful resource directories.

TV segment on ASEM on VTV’s News Bulletin Programme

6 September
Singapore & Vietnam

The Vietnam Television crew was in Singapore to gather footage of scholars discussing Asia-European relations as well as to report on the first Model ASEF organised by ASEFUAN.

Asia-Europe Foundation has played an active role in collaborating with Vietnam Television in the production of a television series on ASEF as a regular segment in their weekly News Bulletin programme. The series aim to educate and inform the Vietnamese audience on Asia-Europe Meeting prior to the ASEM Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam. The series on ASEF was launched on 6th September 2004 on VTV-3.

For further information, please contact: layee@asef.org
EU urges Japan to better project image abroad

THE ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 04/07/2004

Japan has been trying to present itself as a more open and transparent country with the aim of improving its image abroad.

The Japanese government has been working to enhance its image abroad, particularly in the wake of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, which saw Japan's economy suffer a severe downturn.

The government has been promoting various initiatives to improve its image, including a series of diplomatic visits by high-ranking officials from Japan.

However, some analysts argue that Japan's efforts to improve its image abroad have not been entirely successful, and that the country still faces challenges in terms of winning the trust of other nations.

"Japan needs to do more to show its commitment to the global community," said one analyst. "It is important for Japan to take a more proactive role in international affairs and to demonstrate its willingness to work with other countries to address common challenges."
ASIA EUROPE JOURNAL

AEJ 03/2004 will be out in October 2004. The contents of the new issue are as follows:

1. Goh Chok Tong. Europe's Global Role
2. Wolfgang Huber. Christian Belief and Political Culture in Europe
4. Sung-Hoon Park. ASEM and the Future of Asia-Europe Relations
5. Bertrand Fort. ASEM's Role for Security Co-operation
6. Michael Reiterer. ASEM's Role for Education and Culture
7. Apirat Petchsiri. How European Integration is Perceived in Asia
8. Brian Bridges. Learning from Europe. Lessons for Asian Pacific Regionalism?
9. Sahocho Kaji. The Euro, the Enlarged EU and Asia
10. Zhou Hong. EU Social Policy Studies in China
13. Ricardo K.S. Mak. The German Community in 19th Century Hong Kong
15. Books reviews
   - Otake/Reed
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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Culture Europe
International Magazine
(Asia-Europe: Cultural Exchange in Process)
(October - November 2004, issue number 43)

Reinforcing Asia-Europe Co-operation on Climate Change (2004)
Edited by Bertrand Fort

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EUROSEAS 2004

Programme and Panel Abstracts of the 4th European Association for Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) Conference, Paris, France, 1-4 September 2004

Corporate Cultures and Global Brands (2004)
Edited by Albrecht Rothacher
270 pages, US$34
ISBN 981-238-856-7

Edited by Albrecht Rothacher
352 pages, US$26
ISBN 9812103732
7 October
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
ASEF Cultural Exchange Events for the 20th ICOM Conference

4 October
Seoul, Korea
7th ASEMUS Executive Committee Meeting

5 October
Seoul, Korea
"Museum Hopping on the Move"
Presentation of ASEMUS to the museum community
Co-organised with ICOM-ASPAC

5 October
Seoul, Korea
"Does Museum Matter?"
A Public Forum on the Significance of Museums in today’s Society
In partnership with ICOM Korea

6 October
Seoul, Korea
"Business and Culture"
A luncheon meeting with the Korean Business Sector
Jointly organised by the Europe-Korea Foundation

5 October
Hanoi, Vietnam
Asia-Europe Photography Exhibition (Based on the Forums 2003 and 2004) – Selected pictures for the ASEM5 conference meeting
Organised by the Ministry of Culture and Information, Vietnam

7 October
Hanoi, Vietnam
Cultural Exchange Between Europe And Asia: Past Experiences And New Approaches
A symposium co-organised with the Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam, Visiting Arts, the Royal Danish Embassy in Hanoi and Danish Centre for Culture and Development

16 – 18 October
Singapore

Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Programme
“Cross-Examining Justice: Cultural, Religious and Social conceptions of Justice in Asia & Europe.”

22 October-2 November
Tokyo, Japan
Second Asia-Europe Arts Camp
Co-organised with Arts Initiative Tokyo, Japan

26 October – 3 November
Genoa, Italy
Asia-Europe Scientists of Tomorrow Programme (AESTOPE)
Co-organised with the Italian National Institute for the Physics of Matter (INFM) and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

4 – 7 November
Hamburg, Germany
An ASEF-European Alliance for Asian Studies workshop
"Port-Cities and City-States in Asia and Europe"
Convenors: National University of Singapore and University of Hamburg (Germany)

1 – 14 November
Copenhagen, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Stockholm
Ruan Zongze (China)
“Asia & Europe: Joining Forces for Multilateralism”

4 – 6 November
Dublin, Ireland
Asian Pitching Forum, Giving Opportunities to Asian-European TV Co Productions
Co-organised with Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), the French Government and the local and professional coordination of Radio Television Eire, Ireland (RTE)

10 – 14 November
Rome, Italy
Asian Film Festival (Film Critics’ Meeting)
Organised by Cineforum “Robert Bresson” and supported by ASEF (ASEF Culture Grants)

15 – 30 November
Yogyakarta, Manila, Singapore, Hanoi
Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue Programme
Lecture Tours (2004/2005)

Ann-Cathrin Jungar (Finland)
Unfinished democracy? Gender equality and political representation in a comparative perspective

22 – 30 November
Berlin, Germany
Second Asia-Europe Dance Forum
Co-organised with Hebbel Theatre am Ufer, Berlin

25 – 26 November
Hanoi, Vietnam
16th Board of Governors Meeting

29 November - 3 December
The Hague, Netherlands
8th Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium
Co-organised with the International Institute for Asian Studies and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

30 November - 3 December
Singapore
Scriptwriting Workshop for TV Documentaries Programme
Co-organised by MDA, AIBD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France and supported by ASEF

8 – 12 December
Jakarta, Indonesia
Third Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting
Co-organised with the Jakarta International Film Festival

18 – 20 December
Jakarta, Indonesia
An ASEF-European Alliance for Asian Studies workshop
“Urban Transport Policy in ASEAN: Lessons from European Experience”
Convenors: University of Leeds (United Kingdom) and University of Indonesia