ASEM Calendar

07 - 11 September
JAKARTA, INDONESIA
ASEM Trade and Investment Exhibition

16 - 17 September
THE NETHERLANDS (Rotterdam)
6th Economic Ministers’ Meeting

20 - 25 September
SEMARANG, INDONESIA
3rd ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism

The event, held on 21-22 July 2005, took place only two weeks after the London bombings that killed more than 50 people. Bali itself was the setting of another attack in 2002, which also claimed many victims and brought the horrors of 9/11 to Southeast Asia.

The Interfaith Dialogue generated a set of recommendations called the "Bali Declaration on Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community". The next ASEM Interfaith Dialogue will be hosted by Cyrus in 2006.

In order to support and augment this important event, ASEF has organized two projects in the immediate run-up to the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue, the 6th Talks on the Hill and the 3rd ASEM Journalists’ Colloquium.

ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in Bali

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Interfaith Dialogue

ASEM Focus: ASEM Interfaith Dialogue

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Interfaith Dialogue
For the 6th ASEF Talks on the Hill, 18 high-level civil society personalities from diverse backgrounds representing 7 faiths as well as secular society gathered for a meeting on the role of interfaith dialogue in countering a growing number of conflicts between groups and individuals of different religions, which have some elements that could be considered "imported" from conflicts in other countries.

Dr. Roy began with the premise that the link between the Middle East and the radicalisation of young Muslims is exaggerated, and went on to consider the various factors that contribute to the process of radicalisation in Europe. A major argument that he put forward was that the radicalisation of Islam in Europe is due to a process of "de-culturalisation" of the traditional backgrounds of young immigrant Muslims, which fosters a "fantasised" Islam, rather than a deepening of traditional Islamic culture and dogma. In closing, Dr. Roy reflected on some of his experiences in Southeast Asia. This was further elaborated on and discussed by Hajj Muzaffar, who provided an informative and bully insight into the situation in this region. The lecture was followed by a spirited question and answer session with the audience.

Audience members had the opportunity to obtain signed copies of Prof. Dr. Olivier Roy’s latest book “Globalised Islam: The Search for a New Ummah” after the lecture at a special book-signing session.

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

Building on the thematic focus of the 3rd Roundtable on peace and reconciliation processes (publication available), the 4th Asia-Europe Roundtable (AER) centred on improving conflict prevention in Asia and Europe.

The two-day conference brought together 48 participants from 21 ASEF countries consisting of representatives from civil society (research institutes/think-tanks, the academe, NGOs) as well as government and inter-governmental multilateral institutions.

The keynote speeches were delivered by Dr. Rolf Muñoz (member of the German Federal Parliament and Chair of the disarmament & arms control sub-committee and Dr. Sulit pitayawan, former foreign minister and member of parliament, Thailand and member of the board of the international crisis group).

Papers and case studies were presented on the following topics to launch the roundtable discussion:

- Actors, tools and mechanisms for conflict prevention at the global level, European theatre, and Asian theatre;
- Conflict map of East Asia, conflict map of Europe (from the Atlantic to the Caucasus);
- Dimensions of the Mindanao conflict;
- Competition for resources in the South China Sea;
- Early warning in the Yugoslav crisis, and;
- Potential conflict arising from migration from Africa to Europe.

A report of the roundtable’s recommendations has been sent to the ASEF governments covering current conflict prevention capacity in Asia and Europe; early warning indicators of potential crisis and appropriate responses; and capacity and institution-building for regional level and inter-regional responses. The AER is a joint initiative of ASEF, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Office for regional C-operation in Southeast Asia (Germany-Singapore office) and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA). For more information, please contact sohni.kaur@asef.org.
Third Asia-Europe Journalists' Colloquium
Building Interfaith Harmony through the Media
20 July 2005
Bali, Indonesia

Commentary:
A leap of faith?
Alexandros Stathopoulos

“You are more than just leaders and scholars of your faith. Millions of people over the world look to you for guidance, direction and inspiration. You therefore have a responsibility, and have much to contribute to the well-being of our world.”

The relevance of interfaith dialogue is often questioned in public and academic discussion. One of the major contentions is that such interfaith activities tend to preach to the converted and fail to reach people at the grassroots level. However, in the long-term perspective, they do provide opportunities for exchange between representatives of different religions, and contribute to an atmosphere conducive to joint action. By involving opinion-multiplicants at different levels of society, the chances to reach a broad public are increased. As Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said in his opening speech at the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in Bali:

To counter the terrirists it is not enough to fight them with military might or sophisticated police and intelligence methods. Mutual credit and respect between communities have to be carefully built up, so that hatred can eventually be overcome. Information and understanding about each other need to be conveyed through an honest, eye-level discourse, and face-to-face communication is a crucial step towards this goal.

But this dialogue must make its way to every layer in society. That is a difficult task, as religious communities of great numbers and diversity in themselves can hardly be addressed in one sweep. This increases the responsibility of their representatives to pass on the message of tolerance and lead by example.

It is true that there are many conflicts between people and societies that are not religious, but economic or social in origin. Yet, religion plays an important role for many, providing values and identity. It would be a fatal mistake to leave this ground to extremist preachers, to exploit a lack of communication between communities of different faiths. Hence, interfaith dialogue is a necessity, no matter how difficult or slow the progress may be. Everybody can and should make a difference in his own context, beginning with oneself. Building mutual understanding requires not a leap of faith, but many steady strides.

Renowned Islamic scholar and Research Director of intellectual exchange Bertrand Fort, Prof. Dr. Olivier Roy, delivered a lecture entitled “The Western Roots of Islamic Radicalisation,” to a packed audience of over 120, comprising researchers, diplomats, policymakers, students and professionals. Chairing the session was Director of the Intellectual Exchange department, Bertrand Fort, and acting as discussant was Haji Maarif bin Jali Salleh, Former President of the Majlis Ugama Islam (Singapore) and current Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Related News Article
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Interfaith dialogue: Time to come down from the hill by Endy M. Rayuni, The Jakarta Post, Bali

A prelude to this week’s interfaith dialogue of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEF) was aptly called “Talks on the Hills”, which brought together leaders of different faiths from different countries in the two regions. The dialogue, which was held at Bali’s renowned Ubud hill resort between July 17 and July 19, was part of the “Talks on the Hills” series organized by the Singapore-based Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Whether it was the intention of the organizers of the dialogue and the Ubud meeting captured the essence of the problem of past interfaith dialogues, and thereby is true for the ones held in Asia. Such dialogues have been defined largely to the leaders of the major faiths, but they have hardly resonated among the respective faith’s lay population.

Such talks in the past amounted to nothing more than feel-good gatherings that tended to avoid asking and answering the tough questions that divide communities, nations and the world along religious lines. They put on a semblance of cordiality and come out with joint statements about the need to forge peaceful and harmonious coexistence among peoples of different religions. And then they go home till their next event.

The reality on the ground is often far from cordial and harmonious. In some places in Indonesia, for example, there are tensions between the different religious communities, some lurking just under the surface, while others, as in Maluku and the Central Sulawesi district of Fossa, have blown up into full-scale communal conflicts.

It is at the grassroots level that interfaith relations are lived and experienced, with all of their challenges and complexities. The challenge for the leaders engaged in interfaith dialogues is to come down from the hill and convince the communities to follow their lead. Interfaith dialogue should not be confined to the top leaders of the different religious people at the grassroots level should also be encouraged to engage in similar interaction.

Recent events at the national and global levels have made interfaith dialogues more important than ever – locally, nationally, regionally and globally. This week’s ASEF forum, which will be kicked off here on Thursday by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, is one such contribution at the regional level.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and on the Pentagon in 2001, the series of bomb attacks in Indonesia, including the most devastating one in Bali in 2002, the Spanish train bombings, and more recently the London bombings, have made relations between followers of Islam and other faiths around the world more crucial. The perpetrators of all these attacks have claimed to be acting in the name of Islam, and in the process have driven a wedge between Muslims and Christians in the West.

It is heartening to see that in response to this month’s bombings in London, just about every Muslim leader and organization in the world has denounced the attacks and thus immediately distanced themselves from the radical groups that try to hijack their religion.

Still, this and past tragic events have created tensions among people of different faiths, similar
Thirty-four young diplomats and emerging public sector leaders from 21 countries, including new ASEM members Cambodia, Hungary, Laos, Latvia, Myanmar, Poland and the Slovak Republic, shared their views on challenges facing the public sector of ASEM. Four issues were identified as emerging priorities for ASEM: poverty reduction, migration/human mobility, the future of ASEM, and UN reform. During focus group discussions conducted on the topics, participants produced a list of recommendations and possible initiatives to strengthen the Asia-Europe partnership in these areas.

Under the theme, "Leadership Through Uncertainty", the three-day programme offered dialogues with prominent figures in the field of public service skills workshops on leadership, strategic communications and crisis management conducted by expert facilitators; and focus discussion sessions. Simon Tay, Chairman of the Singapore Institute for International Affairs, addressed the cohort on recent trends and dynamic changes in Asia and Europe and their implications on public sector leadership. Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy - National University of Singapore, facilitated a dialogue on the concept of good governance and new imperatives for the Asia-Europe dialogue.

Participants cited opportunities to informally engage in discussions with their counterparts from the other ASEM countries as a major strength of the programme. This was particularly relevant in the case of participants from the new partners of the ASEM, who welcomed the interaction with their colleagues as a chance to become more familiar with different perspectives on the political dialogue process. They highly valued the interactive skills-based workshops, noting the intercultural dimension of this component as most relevant to their field of work.

The Programme for Emerging Public Sector Leaders was co-organised by ASEF and the Civil Service College of Singapore, with support from the Government of Japan.

This Workshop was a side event of the 18th Singapore International Film Festival, in co-operation with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore. The workshop gathered six young and experienced digital filmmakers to supervise a digital film made by six teams of film students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore. The six European and Asian film makers were: Tintin Wuilla (Indonesia), Piotr Rosolski (Poland), Tan Chui Mui (Malaysia), Khvam de la Cruz (Philippines), Roel Monabela (Belgium) and Noh Dong Seok (Korea).

The objectives of the workshop were:
- to offer a panorama of digital cinema movement in Asia and Europe, through public lectures by Park Kyoung (Korea) and Stig Björnman (Sweden)
- to offer a unique opportunity for young up-coming digital film makers to share experiences and information during a four-day intensive workshop, with resource persons and film students
- to raise awareness on the importance of digital film for the development and recognition of up-coming talents

The six short films produced (Azain, Waking Monkey, Conversations, Hush, Booted, Red) were screened at Gazette Institute, Singapore on 30 May. They will be compiled in a DVD, which will also feature a critical essay by Arels Tiozac, number of participants and references.

Contact maiasse@ufpaes.org and visit www.asrf.com/18/51 for more news on cinema in Asia and Europe.
The 2nd EU-Japan-Asia Journalists Conference was co-organised by ASEA and the Delegation of the European Commission in Japan. This conference followed the successful formula from the previous year where ASEA's involvement brought forth the expansion of the annual EU-Japan Journalists' Conference to include journalists from other parts of Asia within the ASEM membership. Forty-eight journalists came together - 22 from Europe, 14 from Japan and 12 from other Asian member countries - to mull over the 'Greening of International Co-operation', which is in conjunction with the theme (Nature's Wisdom) of the Aichi World Expo.

The former Indonesian Environment Minister, Prof. Emd Salim delivered a keynote speech on "Empowering Civil Society for Sustainable Development", which launched stimulating debate between the journalists for the next few days. In session 1: The Environment and Civil Society, Prof. Koh Keng Lian (Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law) and Dr. Soichiro Yoshida (Chairman, Yoshida & Co. Ltd) presented different angles on civil society and the environment. Session 2: The Environment and Economic Growth saw Mr Hirayuki Watanabe (Senior Managing Director, Toyota Motor Corporation) and Ms Inger Schirling (Former Member of the European Parliament) further engaging the journalists in spirited discussion. The closing session consisted of reports from the journalist rapporteurs - Mr Frank McDonald, Environmental Editor of The Irish Times representing the European group of journalists, Mr Saburo Suzuki, Foreign News Editor TV Asahi representing the Japanese journalists, and Mr Cho Hong-sup, Environment Correspondent of Hankyoreh Daily as the Asian representative.

For more information, please contact lisyosea@aseaf.org.

**ASEF Asian Lecture Tour**

"Political and Geopolitical Dimensions of the Humanitarian Intervention in Aceh: A View from Jakarta"

29 April - 1 May 2005

Lisbon, Luxembourg, Brussels, Lisbon, Porto

Mr. Ojunda, Regional Secretary of the Indonesian Maritime Council and Counsellor for Geostategic Affairs, Office of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, participated in the 10th ASEF Lecture Tour under the Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue Programme.

The lecture, delivered at five European locations, provided an analysis of the humanitarian intervention that followed from the perspective of the local Acehnese community, the Indonesian government and the international actors that were involved in the tsunami relief effort. A lively discussion between Mr. Ojunda and the audience followed the lectures with the lecturer providing an overview of both external and domestic factors as well as possibilities for action.

The lecture was hosted by Centre for Investigation and Analysis in International Relations (Lisbon), Université du Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain, Belgium), United Nations University - Comparative Regional Integration Studies and the Madariaga European Foundation (Brussels) and Institut des Relations Internationales et Stratégiqes (Paris).

The full text of the lecture is available on the Culture & Civilisations Dialogue website at www.civil dialogue.aseaf.org.

For more information, please contact sohni.kaar@asef.org

Mr. Ojunda delivers his lecture at the Madariaga Foundation, Brussels, on 11th May.

**Barcelona Asian Film Festival: Screenings and Roundtables with Asian and European film professionals**

29 April - 1 May 2005

Barcelona, Spain

For the Barcelona Asian Film Festival 2005, the invited ASEF participants were:

- Yang Chao, director of "Passage", Korea
- Ravi Bhawani, director of "The Rainmaker", Indonesia
- Gen Sekiguchi, director of "Survive Style 5 +", Japan
- Lorna Tee, producer of "My Beautiful Wishing Machine", Malaysia
- Im Charn-sang, director of "The President's Barber", Korea

Apart from presenting their respective films, the film producers and directors took part in roundtables to share their perspectives on the ways to promote the distribution of Asian films in Spain/Europe and the issue of DVD penetration into the audiovisual market, through the Asian case.

Contact marielesourd@aseaf.org and visit see-images.aseaf.org for more news on cinema in Asia and Europe.

+ BAFF Poster
Fifty-one participants representing 24 higher education, training and human resource development institutions in 16 ASEM partner countries exchanged perspectives and listed priority areas for co-operation with the view to establish an ASEM Education Hub on Lifelong Learning Studies. The event was organised by ASEA and the Danish University of Education, with support from the Danish Ministry of Education.

I think that you have managed to create a fine programme for your piece of the ASEM-action. I actually have been using many parts as background for my columns and editorials. [...] For an international newspaper like Jyllands-Posten gatherings like those are extremely important. Both for the perspective - and for the connections. As editor I often use my connections from international gatherings as sources and/or commentators and columnists. [...] We would not have gone to Kyoto without the ASEA conference. Jan Lund, Managing Editor Jyllands-Posten, Denmark

The programme consisted of seven interactive sessions where some of the current global issues relevant to the two regions were covered in depth and in openess. The presentations included ICTs foreign policy in East Asia, EU constitutional climate change, human rights, East Asian Community, trade policy and civil society. The ASEA Senior Officer for Indonesia, Mr. Arisul Effendi gave an advance briefing on the upcoming ASEA Interfaith Dialogue, scheduled in July in Bali. The journalists were invited to also cover the ASEM meeting, which was themed: "Deepening of Asia-Europe Dialogue on Global Challenges." The ministerial agenda concentrated on strengthening multilateralism in terms of security issues, ad regional integration mechanisms, bi human-centered sustainability covering global climate concerns, energy use, and dealing with natural disasters and disease. According to the Chairmen's Statement, "appreciating the contribution made by ASEF in the cultural area, the Ministers stressed the importance of closer alignment of its activities to ASEAN priorities as well as the sound budgetary and organisational management of ASEF." For the full Statement and other documents, please consult: www.aseaninfo.org.

Follow-up Events and further developments in the Cultural Partnership Mapping process

ASEF presented the research findings, salient points of the three meetings, mock-up of the portal and Plan of Action at several feedback sessions.

- The Second ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (Paris, France, 7-8 June 2005) gave full political blessing for further development of the Portal. The presentation on the process at this Meeting was fitting as the idea of portal development was first introduced during the First ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting held in Beijing in December 2003.
- "Critically Speaking" (Singapore, 6-7 June 2005), an Asia-Europe performing arts colloquium organised by the Informal European Theatre Meeting (IETM), offered ASEF the chance to gauge the relevance of the proposed portal for potential users.
- The third in the Cultural Partnership Mapping series, the Vision Group Meeting gathered some of the most influential individuals in the Asia-Europe cultural arena, including Mr. Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary General.
- Culture.mondo Roundtable (Aichi, Japan, 7-9 June 2005) is the World Exposition served as a platform to share the proposed Plan of Action with, and to learn from the experiences of other institutions, that have already developed online cultural resources.
- The 2nd World Cultureslink Conference a) Zagreb, Croatia (9-12 June 2005) allowed ASEF to inform a number of cultural experts and researchers on this portal initiative for potential feedback and networking.

ASEF continues to spearhead the development of the proposed Asia-Europe cultural portal, forming partnerships with competent organisations in the cultural sector.

For more information, contact arisul@asean.org and visit www.asief.org/dsl/CECIM/Vision for the research papers, and full reports of all meetings in the Cultural Partnership Mapping process.

Top Right: ASEA Secretary General Mr. Ong Keng Yong and ASEF Executive Director Amb. World Choi

Top Left: Participants sharing their experiences in managing cultural resources

Centre: Participants of "Critically Speaking" in the Arts House at the Old Parliament House, Singapore
Establishment of the ASEM Education Hub on Environmental Studies

ASEMUS Virtual Collection Experts Meeting, National Museum of Ethnology

ASEMUS Virtual Collection is one of the 8 ASEMUS projects launched during the Museum Hopping event held in Singapore in March 2004.

Apart from a number of museum representatives, the meeting also benefited from the expertise of Mr. Manus Binkelman, former Secretary General of ICOM, Driftt Asian

Dr. Steven Engleman, Director-General of the National Museum of Ethnology (NME), led the meeting at the museum in Leiden with the aim of adopting a new approach to "ASEMUS Virtual Collection Masterpieces" project.

With the aim to attract institutional support for "Self and Other", a one-day meeting was held in London to present to a number of curators from the different museum departments of the British Museum and several other London institutions, including the British Library and the Courtauld Institute for the History of Art. For more information, contact varinia@asef.org and visit www.asmus.org

Diversities in Society: Integration of civil societies’ initiatives in public policies for cultural diversity, 6 June 2010, CastellFrance

The Seminar was hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Malaysia (MOCAR); the National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (FINAS) and Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), in co-operation with ASEF and the French Embassy in Kuala Lumpur following an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - France.

The participants welcomed the unique opportunity to share experiences on film industries’ models, particularly those from Asia, where in most cases the film industry systems are still being newly developed or undergoing reforms.

The set of recommendations emanating from the "Diversities in Society" Workshop was presented by ASEF during the Second ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting on 8 June 2005 during a workshop on the Promotion of Cultural Exchange. Three members from the Crettel meeting were also invited for the discussions with the ASEF delegations. As a result of this effort, the roles and importance of civil society are mentioned twice in the Chairman’s Statement and the action plan:

1. Chairman’s Statement: "The ASEF Culture Ministers agreed to strengthen the favourable and sustainable environment for these initiatives to develop, so that they contribute to the framing of public policies in favour of cultural diversity."

2. Action plan: "To recognise the important role of the media and civil society, especially of cultural organisations, in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue amongst civilizations."

Drafts, at the Second World CulturalReligion Conference on 10 June 2005, in Zagreb, Croatia, to an international audience of 150 cultural policy researchers, policy makers, practitioners and cultural professionals.

For more information, contact mariele@asef.org and visit www.asef.org/d/o/culturaldiversity

What are the creative initiatives from civil societies in favour of cultural diversity? To what extent are they relevant to promote cultural diversity in a concrete way? What is the nature of the obstacles and challenges faced by civil society's initiatives? How could initiatives from the civil society become references and models for the promotion of cultural diversity?... These are some of the questions discussed by civil society representatives at the one-day workshop conducted by ASEF at Maison des Arts, Crettel on 6 June. The participants from research/academia, youth organisations, and arts were selected among ASEF alumni and contacts.

Presenters included its project leader, Dr. Brian Dunsire, Deputy Keeper of the Asian Collection at the British Museum, together with Ms. Isabel Cardosa of the Macau Scientific and Cultural Centre in Lisbon, Portugal, and representative from ASEF, Varinia Belomir.

This exhibition, which is expected to present approximately 200 outstanding portraits of Asians and Europeans from past and present, will travel to 6 venues in both regions during 2007-2009. Conceived and developed by a team of curators from 18 countries as a visual feast for the mass public, and food for thought to those wishing to explore the theme further, it will include familiar faces, some masterpieces, and hidden treasures never before seen in public.

For more information, contact Varinia at varinia@asef.org and visit www.asmus.org.

# Top: Left to Right: Mr. M.N. Jos Thayil (Portugal), Prof. Kishang Bae (Korea), Mr. H-Ryang Chang (Korea) and Mr. Manus Binkelman (The Netherlands).

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Researchers and academics, officials from the Council of Europe, the Office of the European Ombudsman and national human rights commissions from countries throughout Asia and Europe gathered for a 2-day workshop in Bogor to exchange experiences and discuss co-operation on improving access to justice in transitional countries of both regions.

The workshop consisted of three sessions:
- Guaranteeing Access to Justice through Constitutional and Legal Reforms: How could the vestiges of the past be addressed?
- Case Studies Across Asia and Europe: How well have the ombudsman, human rights commissions, and free legal aid mechanisms worked?
- Creating a Culture of Openness and Public Empowerment: Are Words Enough?

The main objectives of the workshop were to identify specific issues and concrete follow-ups for international co-operation projects involving the institutions represented by the participants. Among the twenty-five experts and officials who attended were: Dr. Roel Fomhouz, National Ombudsman of the Netherlands; Prof. Jan Harden, Professor of Public Law, Sheffield University; Legal Adviser to the European Ombudsman, Strasbourg; H.E. Neiu Kaia, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Cambodia; and H.E. Prof. Dr. Jimmy Ashikudieh, SG, Chairman of the Constitutional Court, Indonesia.

For more information, please contact: natalia@asef.org

Thirty-two university students of forestry, agricultural science, environmental studies and geography exchanged perspectives on sustainable forest management and a possible vision for Asia-Europe co-operation towards environmental sustainability. It was the first time that an ASEF University has focussed on the environment.

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For more information, please contact: natalia@asef.org

The 12th ASEF University engendered the theme, "Asia-Europe Environmental Co-operation: Towards Sustainable Forest Management". During the two-week programme, the participants attended lectures given by academics and practitioners from different countries on topics ranging from the Kyoto Protocol to the creation of sustainable cities. They also exchanged views and engaged each other robustly in smaller working groups on various issues flowing from the lecture topics.

The significance of this event in Brunei Darussalam was indicated by the presence of none other than His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al Mahadde Diah Binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzadin Wadduselah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office, and the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, at the Welcome Dinner and Opening Ceremony. The Crown Prince, in his address to the students, lauded the programme as a wonderful opportunity to strengthen ties and promote intercultural understanding among the next generation of leaders.

Indeed, participants emerged from the programme not only with heightened awareness of the environmental developments in Asia and Europe, but also with greater respect and understanding towards the cultural diversity represented by the two regions. They also had the rare opportunity to appreciate the rich Bruneian culture and heritage.

Another highlight of the programme was a four-day field-study session organised at Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre, where participants jointly conducted experiments and engaged in practical lessons on Diversity, Movements and Ecology of Small Mammals in the Forest Canopy and Terrestrial Space in the Belalong Forest Reserve: Dynamic Studies of the Mixed Dipterocarp Forest of Kuala Belalong and The Ecology and Management of Tropical Rainforest Streams and Rivers. The field-study provided the participants an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge and to experience the diversity offered by the tropical rainforest.

For more information, please contact rachel@asef.org
At the meeting of European federalists in Austria, the focus was on the constitutional crisis of the EU after the referenda in France and the Netherlands, and on an outlook on the EU’s perspectives. By dedicating one out of two days to Asian-European relationships the organizers have taken into account the important role that Asia plays for Europe’s future.

More than a hundred participants from 12 countries attended the Forum in Neumarkt. Speakers of the first day made clear that Europe has entered a decisive period where it has to choose whether it is going to be a political or an economic union. The citizens must support this decision and European politicians have to try every possible effort to bring the idea of a united Europe closer to the people again.

On the second and final day of the Forum the relations between Europe and Asia were examined. This subject going beyond the usual introspective view of European federalists was consciously chosen to show that in other regions of the world the European integration is closely followed with great interest. The development of ASEAN shows that the process in the EU serves as an example, which is often perceived more enthusiastically outside than inside Europe.

The event was closed by Dr. Willibald Pahr, the former Austrian Foreign Minister, who encouraged the participants to be optimistic and to remain engaged, as there is no alternative to the unification of Europe.

The Annual General Meeting provided an occasion for the alumni of the 3-year old network to strengthen their linkages with each other and jointly concrete initiatives that would contribute to the Asia-Europe dialogue and promote better understanding among members of the civil society. Plans included the launch of the Asia-Europe Society and ASEF UAN Entrepreneur, as well as the continued development of the Asia Europe Voices, an online academic journal, and the Culture Capsule, an exchange programme between primary and secondary school classes in Asia and Europe. The cohort also revealed its plan to organise the first Model ASEAN Summit in 2006, to mark the 10th anniversary of the political process.

The Executive Committee of the ASEF University Alumni also organised a conference on “Global Production Sharing: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia and Europe”. The panel discussion included representatives from McKinsey and Company’s Asia House, the Cologne Institute for World Economy, and the Institute of Asian Affairs in Hamburg, among others. Members of the Network presented papers during the resulting workshop sessions.

The 4th Annual General Meeting was organised by the ASEF University Alumni Network, the Institute for Asian Affairs (IFA), and the Asia-Africa Institute of the University of Hamburg, with support from ASEF. The conference was also sponsored by Hotel Panorama Hamburg.

The third Asia-Europe Art Camp gathered 20 new media/art management students for a dialogue on artists’ initiatives and its relation with new media arts practices.

Related aspects on new integration patterns that reconcile arts and technology were also discussed, including their cultural implications, which integrate artistic activity with individual negotiation and social interaction. The programme was articulated around lectures, cultural visits and a workshop “36 Frames” which culminated in an exhibition, opened on 11 August with more than 200 visitors.

The Art Camp was co-organised with the Bandung Centre for New Media Arts in cooperation with the Seseasuranyo Art Space, the Bandung French Cultural Institute and subsidized by the LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore; Mondrian Foundation/University of Porto, Faculty of Arts, Portugal; and University of Art and Design, Helsinki.

A special feature article will be published in the website www.universes-in-universe.de

For more information, contact marielessourd@iasof.org and visit www.asef.org/dsl/ce/artcamp2005

# For Left: Arrival at Gallery Seseasuranyo
# Left: Opening ceremony: Lia Sediyana, representative of West Java province and former student Mr. Pak Soysono
Asia Europe Journal

Published July 2005, the second Asia Europe Journal in this year features the following articles:
- Mahathir bin Mohamad, Asian Leadership
- Ramasurray Choppuraz: The EU: A Model for East Asia?
- Ying Tsou Tai, Towards an Asian Union?
- Claire Sutherland, Integrating Nationalist Ideology into the EU and ASEAN.
- Shamsul Bahrul, Islam Embedded, Religion and Pluralism in South East Asia as a Mirror for Europe.
- Emil J. Kirchner, Security Threats and Institutional Response: The European Context.
- Albrecht Rothacker, Lessons of German Unification and East European Transformation for Korea.
- Sam Wong Kwok Au, Does Investing in Identity Work?
- Stephen Fennell, Asian Literature as a Tool for Identity Creation in Europe.
- Delfin Colomol, East Dance – West Dance.
- Book reviews.

List of Publications

Technology Partnerships for Renewables: Key to Energy Security
Published August 2005
"Technology Partnerships for Renewables: Key to Energy Security" provides a unique comparison of the state of renewable energy (RE) consumption in Asia and Europe as well as an inventory and analysis of relevant policy measures in the two regions.
Edited by Bertrand Fort (ASEP) and Dr. Francis Johnson (SEI), it features papers from renowned experts and practitioners on renewable energy such as Prof. Emil Salim, Former Minister for the Environment, Indonesia and Dr. Michael Grubb, Associate Director of Policy, The Carbon Trust, UK.

Cultural Diversity and Cultural Exchange in the Framework of Globalisation
From the Seminar of the same title organised by the French Speaking Community of Belgium-Wallonie Region, the Ministry of Culture and Information, Vietnam and ASEP, in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 17-19 September 2004, this publication serves as a documentation of all the presentations and recommendations on the issue of cultural diversity.

Developing New Instruments to Meet Cultural Policy Challenges
This publication is based on Asia-Europe Seminar on Cultural Policy held in Bangkok in June 2004. It gathers the contributions of policy makers, policy researchers and practitioners from Europe and Asia, as well as the final set of recommendations, which was brought to the attention of ASEM 5 Summit in Hanoi in October 2004.

Enlarging European Union and Asia
A compilation of lectures from the 10th ASEF University held in Kyoto University, Japan.
ASEF in the News

Starkare försvare Japans nya strategi

Nguyễn Dy Niên à la 7e Conférence ministérielle de l'ASEM à Vientiane, Laos, 21-23 octobre 2003

Vientiane Times

Es la economía, estúpidos

YEAB to host economic forum

Fixing Asia-Europe ties: deeds not words are needed

Focus on Asia

A single goal can unite two different worlds

Minister Takeshi Onaga of Japan and Thailand'sMinister Surin Pitsuwan sign an agreement to promote cooperation in tourism at ASEAN meeting
ASEF has won the recognition of the French government for its continuing efforts to promote cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe. Chulamanee Chartumwan, Director for Cultural Exchange, and Ambassador Dr. Deflin Colomé, former Executive Director, in separate ceremonies in June 2005.

Ms Chulamanee, a Thai diplomat seconded to ASEF, was decorated at the Musee du Quai Branly in Paris on 7 June 2005. "By contributing to this dialogue, you have contributed also to strengthening Franco-Asian cultural relationships," said Mr Stephane Martin, President of the Museum, on behalf of the French Minister for Culture. Ambassador Dr. Colomé, an appointee of the Spanish government, received his decoration from the French Ambassador to Singapore on 10 June 2005. His Excellency Jean-Paul Reau said that Dr. Colomé, had "through humanitarian diplomacy, developed ASEF's reputation as the meeting-point between European and Asian civilisations, and a lively resource centre in the framework of co-operation" between the two regions.

The prestigious award was created in 1957 to honour individuals who have significantly contributed to the development and diffusion of art and literature both in France and throughout the world.

Under Chulamanee’s directorship, ASEF's Cultural Exchange has been an active advocate and initiator of process-oriented platforms for young artist exchanges and networking amongst professionals. The Taguchi Asia-Europe Museum Network Project (ASEMUS), co-founded in 2000, is a prominent example of its dedication to building both personal and institutional relationships between cultural practitioners from the two regions.

Entitled Chevalier, Colomé and Chulamanee join the company of illustrous cultural personalities James Joyce, Leonardo Di Caprio, David Bowie, Jacques Derrida, Catherine Linn, and Paul Auster.

"I would like to share this decoration with all my colleagues in ASEF, present and past. Without working as a team, without this competent group of people which I have the privilege to conduct for the last four years, nothing would have been possible," Ambassador Dr. Colomé.

For more information contact lbjaye@asef.org

AISEF and the Embassy of Hungary in Singapore co-organised a photo exhibition, 'Asia Seen by European Focus', featuring the work of Mr. Tibor Magyar. An eminent Hungarian photographer, Mr Magyar has had twenty-three photo exhibitions in Asia and Europe since 1993. At this exhibition, he presented 63 photographs around the themes of colour, architecture and portraiture, taken in Singapore and the region while posted to the Hungarian Embassy in Singapore. Mr Magyar shares, "I like to look at details that nobody notices. This series is titled 'Hiddlen Colours of Singapore'. There are many buildings in Singapore painted in very bright colours. In Europe, we would never have thought of using this combination of colours. They add an additional layer of character to these windows and old doors.'

For more information, please contact lbjaye@asef.org


We are pleased to announce the forthcoming Asia-Europe Environment Forum conference!

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation (HSF) of Germany, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), '1/3 of our Planet: What can Asia and Europe do for Sustainable Development' is proudly hosted by the KHAHOI - the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation.

In terms of population, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) countries constitute close to a third of the world's population. The conference aims to be a platform for dialogue on environment and sustainable development issues. The event promises to be the largest meeting of its kind, drawing up to 250 high-profile international personalities from Asia and Europe.

The event shall be converging point for workshops hosted by organisations prominent in the field of the environment and sustainable development. Workshops already planned for the meeting cover:

- Community-based Natural Resources Management: Challenges and Opportunities
- Implementation of National Sustainable Development Strategies by 2005: Did Asia and Europe Meet this MDG?
- Cross-border environmental protection in Central Europe and Northeast Asia
- A Partnership Approach to Education for Sustainable Development
- Seizing Biz Opportunities in Sustainable Development for Financial Institutions
- Planet, People, and Profit: Fostering Sustainable Development and Addressing Climate Change through the Clean Development Mechanism
- Globalisation of Production, Trade and Use of Hazardous Chemicals
- Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia – Learning from Europe?

Interested in attending a workshop?

Please contact the conference secretariat for a registration form:
Bertanad Fort, Director for Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation 11 Heng Mu Kong Terrace Singapore 119595 Tel: +65 6874 9707, Fax: +65 6872 1207 Email: env@asef.org Website: http://env.asef.org

Deadine for submission: 30 September 2005

... And other workshops will be announced later...

To view the available workshop concepts, see http://asef.on.web.com/sub/Site/env/WorkshopConcepts.htm

(please note that this page will be continually updated with new workshop submissions)