Media & Society

focus

The media is a key actor in disseminating information and fostering debate within and among different constituencies in Asia-Europe relations, whether about mutual understanding, common misperceptions, joint action or a lack thereof.

ASEF directly engages journalists and other media practitioners through its Editors’ Roundtables, Journalists’ Seminars and Journalists’ Colloquia. These fora, organised on the sidelines of major ASEM meetings, enhance the flow of information and exchange of perspectives on issues of common interest between policy-makers and eminent journalists from Asia and Europe.

At the same time, they serve to promote public awareness about Asia-Europe cooperation through both the ASEM process and ASEF activities.

With a view to examining the impact of the media on multicultural societies, ASEF’s Talks on the Hill meetings and Lecture Tours have variously addressed issues like the relationship between press freedom and civil liberties, and the media’s influence on foreign policy and public opinion. ASEF also initiates a comparative, trans-national study of Asia media perception of the EU through the European Studies in Asia (ESIA) network.

The following pages outline some of these activities that took place between May and August 2007.
The Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminars Series, organised on the occasion of ASEM Ministerial Meetings, are an indispensable forum for journalists to be updated on current world developments and issues being addressed by the ASEM process, and the joint approaches being taken to deal with them.

As one of its 10th Anniversary signature events, ASEF organised the 4th Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar, immediately prior to the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on 28 – 29 May 2007 in Hamburg. Co-financed by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Seminar brought together 25 foreign desk editors, correspondents and reporters from 21 Asian and European countries. Among the journalists invited were those from the new or newer ASEM partners, i.e. Romania, Bulgaria, India and Mongolia.

The day-long Seminar was divided into two sessions. The morning session, moderated by Mr. Zhang Niansheng (Brussels Bureau Chief, People’s Daily China), discussed European enlargement and consolidation from the Asian point of views. The afternoon session discussed regional developments in emerging Asia and the implications for Europe, and was moderated by Mr. Matthias Nass (Deputy Editor, Die Zeit

“...I came with a vague insight on a lot of issues but I am leaving with a more intense passion to report on Asia-Europe... Being able to smell and touch the subjects and writing which will be aimed to the viewer’s hearts.”

– Lourdes Galicia (ABS-CBN, The Philippines)

“I think there is enough interest in the public to hear and read more also about Asia, but sometimes we don’t listen to them because we (in the media) think that Europe and probably America are enough for an average knowledge of our readers. What a mistake.”

– Stojan Zitko (Deli, Slovenia)

Mr. Sudesh Maniar (ASEF, 2nd from left) makes his remarks before the discussion

Germany). The participants also had a luncheon with Ambassador Andreas Michaelis (Director-General for Asian and Pacific Affairs of the German Federal Foreign Office) who spoke on strategic issues in Asia-Europe relations and explored areas of co-operation between the two regions. After the Seminar, the journalists were invited to cover the ASEM Ministerial Meeting.

The ASEF-invited journalists produced an impressive 16 articles, 2 radio broadcasts and 1 TV broadcast. This is evidence of the importance of those seminars to increase ASEM’s visibility, particularly in the new partner countries. Another highlight of the Seminar was the production of a short video by a journalist which included messages and statements of the participants about the event and Asia-Europe relations in general.

The video and all articles have been posted on the ASEF corporate website: www.asef.org/dir/inTheNews.

For more information, please contact Ms. Leonie Schneider at leonie.schneider@asef.org.
The 5th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium brought together 13 senior editors, columnists and correspondents from Asia and Europe, to discuss their perspectives on the complexities surrounding inter-religious differences and commonalities, and their socio-political implications.

One of ASEF’s 10th Anniversary signature events, the Colloquium was organised to immediately precede the 3rd ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in Nanjing. It was co-ordinated by Ms. Liu Lina (Editor, Xinhua News Agency China) and Dr. Andrew Taussig (Trustee, International Institute of Communication, UK). For the first time, three representatives (one from a faith-based group and two from ASEF 1st Youth Interfaith Dialogue) also joined the discussion to give some religious and youth perspectives on the issues being discussed.

The Colloquium members divided their discussion into two sessions. In the morning session, they tried to analyse and define the context of the challenge of deepening inter-faith dialogue through the media. Participants found a significant degree of consensus in their appreciation of how faith and religion are interwoven with ethnic, cultural and other factors in establishing the identity of particular groups. Despite some divergence of perspectives on the relationship between media and government, participants also found an encouraging degree of consensus on the ethical basis of journalism and its potential contribution to strengthening and deepening inter-faith dialogue.

The background of shared values along with appreciation of the complexity of inter-group relationships provided a natural transition to the afternoon session on media practice. All agreed on the need for a responsible and disciplined journalistic methodology as a prerequisite of media credibility. In the context of the developing interfaith dialogue process, participants also agreed to use their best efforts to broaden their network in ways which would increase the impetus, leverage and influence of the dialogue process.

The Colloquium’s main conclusions were subsequently transmitted as inputs into one of ASEM Interfaith Dialogue’s Working Groups on “Interfaith Dialogue and Social Cohesion and Development.”

For more information or to obtain a copy of the full project report, please contact Mr. Cahyadi Indrananto at cahyadi@asef.org.

“A good way to learn about other cultures and faith, something that is not possible in similar dialogues held in my own country. Also, we managed to talk about faith and religion without the debate degenerating into quarrel.”

– Omar Rashid Quraishi
(The News, Pakistan)

“Journalists’ networking – also amongst themselves – is essential. The ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium is a very good opportunity to establish such a Euro-Asian network.”

– Otto Friedrich
(Die Furche, Austria)
As ASEF commemorates its 10th Anniversary, one of its flagship projects is celebrating its 5th Anniversary this year: The Asia Europe Journal, the Foundation's quarterly academic periodical is published in its 5th volume.

Launched in 2003, the Journal's objective is to serve as a platform linking views from academia in Asia and Europe, with perspectives from policy makers in both regions. Since its inception, the Journal has enjoyed growing popularity; its readership has seen a yearly increase of 50% since 2003.

Focusing on interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities, over 180 authors from Asia and Europe have contributed essays, academic papers or book reviews to the Journal. Each issue contains a mix of timely topical essays from senior statesmen or politicians and scholarly papers from leading academics and young ambitious authors from both regions. The Journal also contains a book review section.

The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Albrecht Rothacher, Counsellor for the Delegation of the European Commission to the International Organisations in Vienna and former ASEF Public Affairs Director. With the consultation of a strong international Advisory Board, all articles are refereed through a "double-blind" process.

The Asia Europe Journal encourages authors to contribute to an active and lively debate. Authors are solely responsible for the views expressed in their articles.

The Asia Europe Journal is made available in digitized format to 4,455 institutions worldwide, which include a large number of universities, colleges, and libraries. It is published by the German publisher Springer, Heidelberg, and abstracted and indexed in ECONIS, EconLit, Expanded Academic, JEL on CD, Journal of Economic Literature, Research Papers in Economics (RePEc), Social Science Research Network (SSRN).

Find out more about the Asia Europe Journal on the web at www.aej.asef.org or www.springer.com.

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- Vol 3 No 4: Nordin Hussin - Malay Press and Malay Politics: The Heritoge Riots in Singapore
- Vol 4 No 1: Annabel Egan - Regulatory Changes in China against Evolving Media Freedoms

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AEJ Volume 5 Number 3
– September 2007
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Interested in contributing an article to the Asia Europe Journal?

Each issue of Asia Europe Journal aims to follow a major subject such as security, historical experience, cultural perception, gender issues and other such areas of bi-regional interest.

Upcoming issues will focus for example on the “Youth in Asia and Europe”, “Role of Media in Society”, the “Emergence of regional responses to conflict management”, and “Climate change: Global challenges and political responses”. If you would like to submit a paper, please send your submission in electronic form (Microsoft Word document) to asiaeuropejournal@asef.org.

Papers should be written in English and be preceded by a short abstract. The submission should not exceed 7,000 words. Only previously unpublished manuscripts are accepted for consideration. Upon publication, an honorarium of 300 Euros will be granted.

For further information, please contact Dr. Albrecht Rothacher (Editor-in-Chief) or Ms. Leonie Schneider (Editorial Assistant) at telephone (65) 6874 9736, or email to asiaeuropejournal@asef.org.

In 2005, ASEF initiated a network of European Studies in Asia (ESiA). The motivation was pragmatic and sought to redress an apparent imbalance. Whilst within the European Union (EU) there are already a number of credible institutes that focus on Asia and Asian affairs, there are very few comparable institutes that examine the EU and European studies in Asia.

One of the ESiA network’s first activities was to undertake a comparative trans-national empirical project on how the EU is perceived in Asia. The report of the research was subsequently delivered by Prof. Martin Holland (Director, National Centre for Research on Europe at the University of Canterbury) at the 17th ASEF Lecture Tour held on September 2006 in Brussels, Paris, Preston, Bristol, Ulster and Pamplona.

In the report, Prof. Holland presented selected interim empirical findings from this ESiA research project that examines how the Asian media represents the EU and how this is translated into the images and perceptions citizens hold towards the EU. The data used for the research was drawn from the daily analysis of two widely accessed media outlets: prime time television news and the leading popular newspaper.

From five popular newspapers surveyed, a total of 1,261 EU-related news items were identified and it demonstrated that coverage of the EU is modest. Where the EU is reported, it is predominantly described Europe as an external actor elsewhere in the world and not as necessarily locally relevant to the country in which the media is published. On television the EU appears almost invisible, except perhaps on one channel where the news items mentioned the EU as either a major, secondary or minor actor.

Is that necessarily problematic if the EU is largely peripheral in the mass media? How can EU visibility in the Asian media be raised? What are the recommendations for both the Asian media and for the EU?

The full report accompanied by detailed analysis on the result of this study can be downloaded from the ESiA website: www.esia.asef.org. It is also featured as part of ASEF Lecture Tour series in the “Third Year of Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue – 2005/2006” book (ISBN: 978-981-05-7629-5). Please write to info@asef.org to order a copy of the book or visit www.civdialogue.asef.org to learn more about ASEF’s Dialogue of Culture and Civilisations programme.
This is my fifth year living in Asia. A few months ago, I was taking the plane from Nagoya to Nanjing to attend ASEF’s Journalists’ Colloquium that preceded the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue. When I looked around onboard, I realised that I was the only non-Asian on the jet. It was not the first time it happened, and I did not feel uncomfortable at all. I just smiled and kept reading my book. Such a situation would have probably been strange to me some years back.

Working in Asia has been fascinating and I have had the opportunity to meet interesting people. Not long ago, I was waiting in front of former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu’s office, where I went to meet him for an interview. When I entered his office and greeted him, I immediately spotted the photos on the desk. “Those are some informal pictures from my visit to Hungary,” Mr. Kaifu said, pointing at them. Without sitting down, he enthusiastically shared some of his personal memories from the trip with me. “This is my wife at the famous Central Market Hall in Budapest, this is me giving a lecture at a university, and this is a piece of the Iron Curtain your former Prime Minister gave me as a present”, he explained. I thought it was quite unique to be able to see a piece of Hungary’s past for the first time in Japan, and asked for his permission to take a closer look at the barbwire. The interview went very smoothly, and it goes without saying that Mr. Kaifu did a very good job in breaking the ice.

I have had my amusing moments in Japan. My best friend visited me a couple of weeks ago. We have known each other since we were six; we attended school together in Hungary. We grew up eating the same cafeteria food and drinking the same tea every morning at our primary school. During his stay in Japan, we took a trip to Kyoto, and went to a local restaurant there. We were served green tea. I almost forgot how different this green tea was compared to our tea at school (where we were given sweetened lemon water disguised as tea). He had a sip of Japan’s best sencha, and his face suddenly turned the colour of the tea. “Where is the sugar? It has no taste” he complained. At that moment, I started to laugh. I remembered having the same reaction when I arrived in Japan and tried green tea for the first time. A lot has changed since then. Whenever I return to Hungary, I look for non-sweetened teas at the store, but I still drink the “sweetened lemonade” if I am offered.

My time in Asia is also an opportunity for me to try to plug the knowledge gap that still exists between the Asia and Europe. At the end of August, I spent my vacation back in Hungary. A colleague at my newspaper’s head office in Budapest approached me and said that he would travel to South Korea a week later. He needed some advice. He enquired if the water is potable in Seoul and if the country has good hygiene. I assured him that Seoul is totally safe and that South Korea in many ways is “more advanced” than Hungary. I would probably have asked similar questions a few years back.

Besides beautiful places and great cuisine, Asia has given me lessons for life. It has taught me tolerance (I am a minority here) and to accept differences (when tasting tea!). It has shown me a way to appreciate diversity and different approaches, and encouraged me to be more open to the world. If I recall the ASEF programmes I have attended, I can comfortably say that ASEF has succeeded to pack all of this into its media events, and provided me with a bridge to value Asia. Thanks to this, I am on the right path to better appreciate Asia and the world, and I am keen to share the experience of this “eye-opening” with the readers of my publications.
ASEF availed of the visit of Prof. Dr. Jutta Limbach, President of the Goethe-Institut and former President of the Federal Constitutional Court Germany, to host a public lecture on the 19th of April. It was co-organised with the Goethe Institut, Singapore. Dr. Ulrich Nowak (Director of the Goethe Institut in Singapore) chaired the proceedings with Mr. Kevin Tan (Chairman for the Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia) acting as discussant.

Dr. Limbach’s lecture highlighted the stony path from the Nuremberg Trial 60 years ago, when some of those primarily responsible for the war and war crimes in Germany had to answer for their actions, to finally establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC). It was argued that the ICC represents one of the better options for countries to break the cycle of impunity, restore justice and provide victims with reparations. Discussant Kevin Tan, provided an Asian perspective on the topic of the ICC, highlighting the following issues: defining what constitutes a war crime, the interference of national reconciliation efforts and the principle of complementarity, and the reluctance of some Asian countries to ratify the Statute of Rome.

The lecture was attended by 30 participants from the academia, trade unions and law firms, think tanks and research institute representatives as well as officials from ASEM embassies. For further information, please contact Ms. Natalia Figge at natalia@asef.org.

In the resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations and agreements are critical for planting the seeds for lasting peace. However, well coordinated and participatory post-conflict reconstruction is required to ensure that the peace process does not revert to conflict.

Asia and Europe have ample experience, resources and perspectives that can help to contribute towards such complex objective. Attention should be drawn to:

- building the capacity of post-conflict governments for sustainable recovery by avoiding the parallel structures created by the “business” of post-conflict assistance;
- phasing international assistance over a long period as “a quick exit” may mean an arduous and costly return; and,
- coordination and comprehensiveness, rather than fragmentation in the efforts by the international community.

These are the main conclusions of the 5th Asia-Europe Roundtable at the Asia-Europe Foundation in Singapore on 23-25 May, bringing together 40 Asian and European experts in post-conflict reconstruction, including former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SR-SG) to Kosovo Soeren Jessen-Petersen and former UN SR-SG to Timor-Leste Ambassador Sukehiro Hasegawa, as well as peace negotiators, reconstruction advisers, political figures, crisis management NGOs representatives, democracy-building specialists, election observers and specialised journalists.

A public panel with an audience of 120 people launched the two-day roundtable on 23rd May. The panel “Negotiating an Irreversible End to conflict: Are the Peace Agreements in Aceh and Northern Ireland Sustainable?” It featured Munawar Liza Zainal (Mayor of Sabang City, Aceh), Prof. Radha Kumar (Director of Nelson Mandela Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution, New Delhi), Pieter Feith (former Head of Mission of Aceh Monitoring Mission), Sami Lahdensuo (Executive Director of Crisis Management Initiative Helsinki), and Willie McCarter (former Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland). The panel was moderated by John Chalmers (Senior Editor, Reuters Singapore). ASEF’s Governor for Indonesia, Ambassador Sastrohandoyo Wiryono, also a former negotiator in the Aceh peace process, was also present to welcome the audience on behalf of ASEF.

For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Sol Iglesias at: sol.iglesias@asef.org.
I’mPULSE is a programme of ASEF designed to provide a platform for young people to exchange their ideas on music, primarily aiming to encourage fresh minds to pursue the development of their music concepts by learning from each other. This year, ASEF implemented I’mPULSE Clandestino, Fourth Asia-Europe Music Camp at the sidelines of the Clandestino Festival in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Fifteen emerging musicians from Europe and Asia engaged in a one-week dialogue through comprehensive music experimentation. A close-up on the representation, translation and migration of Asian and European dub music-culture was presented by guest musicians Aniruddha Das (a.k.a Dr. Das), Neil Fraser (a.k.a Mad Professor), Daito Manabe and resource persons like Steve Barker (On the Wire/BBC Radio).

Aleksander Motturi (Artistic Director of Clandestino Festival) and Dickson Dee (a.k.a Li Chin Sung) composed the team of curators for this project. Four music workshops and more than 40 hours of rehearsals paved the way to eight public performances at various venues around the city: Museum of World Cultures, Storan Opera House, Berg211 Music Club, and The Music House in Gothenburg. Three of them were collaborative performances and involved at least five I’mPULSE musicians.

The outcomes from the meeting will be made available to public in the form of DVD, CD and accompanying booklet co-developed by ASEF and Clandestino. The DVD will contain a 30 minutes documentary prepared for the the ‘Go West’ music program at the Shanghai Oriental TV station (SMG). The CD will contain the music created ad hoc for the three public collaborative performances. These outcomes are expected to be ready by February 2008.

For more information, please contact Mr. David Ocón at david.ocon@asef.org.

The Asia-Europe Training for Trainers on Intercultural Learning brought together 28 representatives of youth organisations in 22 ASEM countries to work on the development of skills and exchange of best practices on intercultural learning, by providing them with an innovative approach regarding intercultural capacities beyond stereotypes and prejudices.

The training was co-organised by ASEF and the Philippines National Youth Commission (NYC), in close co-operation with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE). It contained structured learning activities (SLE’s) and daily reflections, simulation games and cultural exchanges, as well as the visit to Intramuros where the Philippine culture was showcased, and the Malacañang, the Presidential Palace of the Philippines, where the group was given the chance to pay a courtesy visit to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita of the President of the Republic of the Philippines. At the closing ceremony of the event, Senator Edgardo J. Angara honoured the event with his participation and an inspiring speech.

The establishment of a stable co-operation in the field of trainings and capacity-building for youth organisations forms a part of ASEF’s efforts to foster intercultural dialogue, and Youth Trainings represent a crucial endeavour in our effort to promote better understanding, respect and appreciation for ‘the other’.

For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org.
The Seminar on Vocational Training Related to Restoration of the Cultural Heritage and the Environment was organised in the framework of ASEF Youth Partnerships 2007. Madrid was selected as the venue because of Spanish experience in delivering this type of topic through their Escuelas Taller (Workshop Schools) which is an excellent best practice.

The Seminar was co-organised by ASEF and the Santamarca Training Centre, with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, the Government of the Philippines and the Spanish Ministry of Labour. It gathered 46 experts in the work with youth, cultural heritage and environmental preservation from 25 ASEM countries.

The partners present at this forum expressed their interest in incorporating the experience of the Training Workshops into the framework of the EU-ASEM meetings for dialogue, in the field of employment and social and cultural affairs, taking into particular consideration the goal of eradicating poverty in Asia. This new initiative will encourage the mobilisation both of governmental bodies and of civil society.

This Meeting constitutes the launch of a process that should be continued in forthcoming years. With this in mind, all the ASEM partners have been invited to develop a coordinated action involving the various projects that are currently in progress or that might be established on the basis of the Madrid Meeting. Thus, promoting employment, restoring the national heritage and protecting the environment are all challenges that countries must face up to on the basis of a strengthened dialogue within the ASEM process.

Please contact Ms. Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org to get more information on this project.

Young People for Development in Cambodia, supported by ASEF and various Cambodia-based national and regional agencies, organised the 5th Annual Training Programme of the Young People for Development. It was attended by 60 young leaders who represented local communities and youth social and non-governmental organisations in ASEM countries, as well as ASEM government officers involved in youth-related issues.

The training took place in three different locations (Phnom Penh, Kampong Chanang and Siem Reap), which are good examples of places where many sustainable development projects are being implemented. It was successful in providing participants with the basic skills and knowledge on climate change issues and sustainable development at a local, regional and international level. All participants agreed to take practical actions for sustainable development and for spreading the knowledge acquired during the training and various countries expressed their will to organise follow-up Asia-Europe trainings in the years to come.

For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org.
The Thematic Network’s Advisory Board gathered a select group of academic experts and other resource persons to outline a roadmap for the network’s projects and activities. The meeting aimed to form a strategy towards a growing partnership among Asian and European universities to support prevention, resolution and transformation of conflicts in the ASEM.

The Network’s board is chaired by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, who has been instrumental in several peace accords, including the Aceh peace talks. Other board members represented Asian and European research institutions and universities actively engaged in the network’s research project on peace processes and conflict resolution education.

The Advisory Board meeting was held back-to-back with the inaugural conference of the ASEM Education Hub’s Thematic Network on Peace and Conflict Studies. The conference gathered 94 participants from various universities, research agencies and official ministries.

On the occasion of the Network’s launch, its activities were presented to the participants, along with the outcomes of the Advisory Board meeting’s strategy discussion. The theme, main scholars and resource persons behind the network’s five-year collaborative, Asian-European comparative research project on peace processes were also presented during the conference.

The Thematic Network on Peace and Conflict Studies benefited from the generous support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For more information about the ASEM Education Hub and its Thematic Networks, contact its Project Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Remoquillo at valerie@asef.org.

**Initiatives by ASEP’s alumni are amongst its most significant achievements in fostering mutual understanding between Asia and Europe’s emerging leaders. With 13 editions completed, the ASEF University programme has successfully promoted a sustainable grouping of promising young leaders who have since formed the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN).**

In co-operation ASEFUAN and the Research Unit on International Security and Co-operation (UNISCI) of Universidad Complutense de Madrid, ASEP organised a week-long series of projects in celebration of ASEF’s tenth anniversary.

The inaugural meeting of Asia-Europe Alumni Networks was held on 31 August and 1 September, gathering 10 high-level representatives of alumni organisations with a strong Asia-Europe dimension. The two-day consultation sessions aimed to identify prospects for synergy and closer collaboration among similar networks and the role ASEF can play to support their work. The meeting also aimed to encourage broader linkages for ASEFUAN, especially with EC-supported initiatives, including the Erasmus Mundus Association.

The academic conference, Achieving Human Security: Inter-regional Co-operation and Global Impact, was held on 3 September at the office of the Representation of the European Commission in Madrid. The whole-day event involved a panel discussion examining Asia-Europe co-operation in human security. Prof. David Garcia Cantalapiedra of UNISCI and ASEF University #1 alumni, Prof. Natividad Fernandez Sola, Vice Rector of Universidad de Zaragoza and Mr Geoffrey Barrett, ASEM Advisor at the DG External Relations of the European Commission took part in an engaging panel discussion chaired by ASEFUAN President for 2006-2007, Puspa Delima Amri. Workshop sessions followed.

The Sixth ASEFUAN Annual General Meeting was held from 4 to 7 September 2007 at Casa Asia, attended by 60 alumni. The yearly gathering was a forum to report on the Network’s projects and activities, to develop plans for future initiatives and hold the elections of its Executive Committee. In keeping with ASEF University tradition, an event-filled cultural programme was organised, which brought participants to historic Toledo, Cordoba and Sevilla.

ASEF@10: ASEF University, ASEFUAN and Beyond was supported by Casa Asia, the Representation of the European Commission in Spain, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperacion (Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation), Universidad de Zaragoza, Grupo Compostela, Fundacion Tres Culturas and Real Fundacion de Toledo. For more information, please contact Ms. Valerie Remoquillo at valerie@asef.org.
New Publications

Combine or Combust!
Co-operating on Chemicals and Hazardous Substances Management

Editors:
Mr. Peter Ryan and Mr. Atul Bagai

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) 4th Roundtable which was held in Brussels in November 2006 was an Asia-Europe contribution to the current global policy dialogue on chemicals management through promotion of transparency, capacity building and knowledge transfer. This publication is a compendium of the two-day discussion, presenting views expressed during the meeting by leading policy makers and technical specialists on two areas namely (a) common global approaches in chemicals and hazardous substances management for Asia and Europe; and, (b) overarching policy regime issues in chemicals and hazardous substances management in Asia and Europe.

It includes contributions from Dr. Kim Myung-Ja, member of the Korean National Assembly, and Mr. Daniel Verbist, Executive Director, Build Trust and Communications, European Chemicals Industry Council. ASEF edited this volume together with Mr. Atul Bagai of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

This publication is significant given the fact that the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) proposal entered into force in the European Union in June 2007. Additionally, the regional consultation of the Strategic Agreement on International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Asia was held in May 2007.

ESiA eMonitor

Editor: Peter Ryan
Publication Date: October 2007

The fifth issue of the ESiA eMonitor was published in October 2007. The eMonitor is the quarterly electronic newsletter of ASEF’s European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network with a readership of over 8,000 in Asia, Europe and internationally. It contains highlights of the ESiA website http://esia.asef.org, a fully interactive website for European studies academics, institutions and networks to share and collaborate. This online platform is a vast source of information, debate and research on European studies in Asia and Europe. It contains papers, articles, conference and publication announcements, vacancies and an extensive database of leading European studies institutions and networks in the two regions.

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Ira Martina Drupady at esia@asef.org.

ENVforum e-Newsletter

Editor: Mr. Peter Ryan

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) is pleased to announce the inaugural issue of its e-newsletter in September 2007. This quarterly e-newsletter features environment and sustainable development headlines and announcements, relevant to Asia and Europe. This issue features a contribution from Ms. Martina Krueger (Greenpeace) on civil society engagement on climate change policy. The e-newsletter can be found on the ENVforum website: http://www.env.asef.org.

For enquiries, please contact Mr. Rahiman Abdullah at env@asef.org.

CALL FOR MEMBERS:
Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)

Conceived in 1998, the Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) is a unique structure that connects secondary and high schools in Asia and Europe. Through its activities, the AEC-NET provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges. It is a cyber-classroom shared by students and teachers to build stronger bi-regional networks and partnerships in the course of implementing common online projects and participating in face-to-face exchanges. The AEC-NET is open to all secondary and high school in ASEM countries.

For schools who are interested to join the network, please register online at www.aec.asef.org/aecnet_register. For more information about the AEC-NET, please visit our homepage at www.aec.asef.org.
Visits to ASEF
3. Prof. Datin Dr. Roziah Omar, Asia-Europe Institute, Malaysia, 31 August 2007.

Governors’ News
• Mr. Borislav Kostov of Bulgaria was appointed Governor.
• Dr. Piero Gastaldo of Italy was appointed Governor.
• Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial of Pakistan was succeeded by Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani.
• Mrs. Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson of the Philippines stepped down.
• Ambassador Antonio Segura of Spain was succeeded by Mr. D. Jesus Sanz Escorihuela.
• Mr. Luong Quoc Huy of Vietnam was appointed Governor.
Staff News

Outgoing Staff:
- Ms. Diane Koh, Singapore (Director, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Anjeli Narandran, Singapore (Project Executive, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Jenny Tan, Singapore (Personal Assistant to Executive Director)
- Ms. Tan Qiuyi, Singapore (Executive Assistant to Deputy Executive Director)
- Ms. Kate Elliot, United Kingdom (Intern, Intellectual Exchange)
- Mr. Jerome Pang, Singapore (Intern, Admin and Finance)

Incoming Staff:
- Mr. Anthony Verghese, Singapore (Director, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Azizah Fauziah, Indonesia (Project Officer, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Andrina Saverias, Singapore (Executive Assistant to Deputy Executive Director)
- Ms. Lorivic Fragata, The Philippines (Personal Assistant to Executive Director)
- Ms. Zhuo Yu Zhen, Singapore (Admin Assistant, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Dewi Tio, Indonesia (Intern, Intellectual Exchange)
- Ms. Fannie Wong, Hong Kong (Intern, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Lindsay Courtney, Ireland (Intern, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Hoa Do Thi Thu, Vietnam (Intern, People-to-People Exchange)
- Ms. Michelle Grindle, United Kingdom (Intern, People-to-People Exchange)

Appointments:
- Ms. Ira Martina Drupady (Indonesia) is appointed Project Executive of Intellectual Exchange
- Mr. David Ocón (Spain) is appointed Project Executive of Cultural Exchange
- Mr. Jimmy Singal (Indonesia) is appointed IT System Administrator

Anthony Verghese joined ASEF as the Director of Administration and Finance in August 2007. Starting his working life in Singapore Economic Development Board in 1969, Anthony has had a varied career covering the engineering, real estate and banking industries, he became one of the Senior Directors in Singapore Technologies Telemedia in 2001. Anthony obtained his Master of Business Administration specialising in Industrialisation and Strategic Management from Delft University (RVB), the Netherlands. He is married and has a daughter.

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2nd Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Development Co-operation Forum
12-13 June 2007
Hanoi, Vietnam

Ms. Natalia Figge represented ASEF at the Second Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Development Co-operation Forum (2nd IDCF) in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 12-13 June 2007. The two-day meeting was attended by delegates of ASEAN member countries, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and international foundations and organisations. Participants exchanged views on developmental issues in relation to the IAI and other strategic matters to attract more stakeholders. The creation of strategies to narrow the development gap, and the identification of human and institutional capacity gaps existing in ASEAN, were some of the issues discussed during the meeting.

The timing of the 2nd IDCF came at an important time for the IAI given its aim to provide a platform for ASEAN to plan co-operation activities to narrow the development gap.

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International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS)
5 Sharing a Future in Asia
2-5 August 2007
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The “International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS) 5: Sharing a Future in Asia” was organised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 2-5 August 2007, by ASEF’s long-standing partner, the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) based in Leiden, the Netherlands, in co-operation with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Attended by over 1,000 participants, a majority of whom were Asian and European, it was said to be the largest gathering of scholars in Asian studies outside the United States.

An ASEF exhibition booth provided information about ASEF and its programmes. ASEF representatives also actively participated at the discussion panel “Regionalisation and Community Building: Euro-Asian Perspective from Below and Above” organised by the European Alliance for Asian Studies.
A call to all religious leaders: Join the dialogue

By Dr. Jakob Dall

The Danish government has launched a national campaign to promote interreligious dialogue. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of dialogue between people of different faiths and to encourage religious leaders to take an active role in promoting such dialogue.

The campaign includes a series of public events, such as forums and seminars, where religious leaders from different faiths can meet and discuss issues related to interreligious dialogue. The goal is to create a platform for open and respectful dialogue, where religious leaders can exchange ideas and learn from each other.

The campaign also includes a social media campaign, where religious leaders are encouraged to use their platforms to promote interreligious dialogue. Social media is a powerful tool for reaching a wide audience and creating a sense of community.

The Danish government hopes that this campaign will inspire religious leaders around the world to take an active role in promoting interreligious dialogue. By doing so, they can help create a more understanding and tolerant world.

Source: The Danish Government
ASEM interfaith talks get under way in Nanjing
ASEF actively works with the mass media to raise public awareness of issues related to cross-continental relation. This effort has many times resulted in coverage in Asia and Europe media. Some particular examples of ASEF projects covered are: 4th Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar (story on page 2 of this newsletter), 5th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium (page 3), 5th Asia-Europe Roundtable (page 7) and I’mPULSE Clandestino: 4th Asia-Europe Music Camp (page 8).

To read or download any of these news clippings, please visit www.asef.org/dir/InTheNews.
ASEF Calendar
September - December 2007

- 31 August – 8 September
  MADRID, SPAIN
  ASEF@10: ASEF University, ASEFUAN and Beyond
  In partnership with the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and the Research Unit on International Security and Co-operation (UNISCI), Universidad Complutense de Madrid

- 5-6 September
  KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
  ASEM Education Hub: Asia-Europe Colloquium on University Governance and Management
  In partnership with the European University Association, the Malaysian Vice-Chancellor Committee and hosted by the Open University of Malaysia

- 11 September – 2 October
  VARIOUS ASEM COUNTRIES
  ASEF Youth Partnerships: Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange
  In partnership with Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)

- 13 September
  SEOUL, KOREA
  Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) Official Virtual Collection Launch, ASEMUS Museum Hopping 2007 and ASEMUS Executive Committee Meeting

- 26-28 September
  SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA
  Governance – Human Rights Series
  The 8th Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights: “Freedom of Expression”
  Co-organised with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Raoul Wallenberg Institute, hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia

- 7-9 October
  AUSCHWITZ, POLAND
  Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations
  11th Talks on the Hill Meeting: “Apolitical education: revisiting history in Asia and Europe”

- 2-5 October
  WARSAW, POLAND
  20th Board of Governors’ Meeting

- 20-24 October
  LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
  Young Artists Exchange
  Lingua Comica - 2nd Asia-Europe Comics Project
  In partnership with Comica Festival London and supported by the London Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Goethe Institut London, the Institut Français London, Visiting Arts and the Embassy of Japan to the UK

- 24-28 October
  COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
  Asia-Europe Young Political Leaders Symposium
  In partnership with Danish Youth Council, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 25-27 October
  LYON, FRANCE
  ASEM Education Hub
  Inaugural Meeting of the Thematic Network on Regionalism Studies
  In partnership with the CидOB Foundation

- 5-6 November
  JAKARTA, INDONESIA
  ASEM Education Hub
  Inaugural Meeting of the Thematic Network on Human Security
  In partnership with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta

- 11-16 November
  MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES
  ASEM Youth Dialogue 2007
  In partnership with Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly (YSDA), ECO-Singapore

- 13-24 November
  CHINA
  Young Artists Exchange
  Point to Point: The 5th Asia-Europe Dance Forum
  Co-organised with China Dance Association

- 18-24 November
  CORK & DUBLIN, IRELAND
  Young Artists Exchange
  Future Image - Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2007
  In partnership with Cork: Sirius Arts Centre, and Cork Institute of Technology Partner Dublin: Dun Laoghaire Institute of Arts, Design and Technology (IADT)

- 25-29 November
  KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
  ASEM Education Hub
  Annual Conference of the Thematic Network on Lifelong Learning
  In partnership with ASEM Education and Research Hub on Lifelong Learning and hosted by the National University of Malaysia

- 28-30 November
  SHENZHEN, CHINA
  Environment and Sustainable Development
  Asia-Europe Environment Forum 5th Roundtable
  In partnership with Hanns Seidel Foundation, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Swedish Environmental Secretariat in Asia and the United Nations Environment Programme

- 3-4 December
  JAKARTA, INDONESIA
  Governance Democratisation and Justice Series’ Advisory Group Meeting

- 5-7 December
  MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES
  Academic Co-operation
  European Studies in Asia (ESiA) Phase 2: Workshop on the Future of European Studies in Asia

- 9-15 December
  PARIS, FRANCE
  Process-Oriented Platforms for Exchange: Independent Creative Art Spaces Leadership Training and Independent Cultural Centers
  Organised with Art Factories
ASEM Calendar
September - December 2007

- 10-12 December
PARIS, FRANCE

- 17-18 December
ALICANTE, SPAIN
ASEM Education Hub 2nd Advisory Council Meeting
Co-organised by the AEH Secretariat and hosted by University of Alicante

- 17-18 December
ALICANTE, SPAIN
ASEM Education Hub Inaugural Meeting of the Thematic Network on Intellectual Property Management
In partnership with the University of Alicante

- December (tbc)
TALLINN, ESTONIA
Asia-Europe Partnership in the Field of Trainings
Asia-Europe Training for Trainers
In partnership with The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations

- Date and Venue tbc
Launch of CULTURE360 Web Portal
In conjunction with the 3rd ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting

11-13 September
YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA
Preparatory Meeting to the 2nd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference

26-28 September
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA
8th ASEM Informal Human Rights Seminar

24-28 October
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
2nd Conference for Young Political Leaders

29-30 October
GUILIN CITY, CHINA
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting

29 October – 1 November
BEIJING/QINGDAO, CHINA
1st Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Ministerial Meeting and Trade and Investment Fair

12-13 November
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN
7th ASEM Customs Director-General Commissioners Meeting

12-14 November
BEIJING, CHINA
ASEM Workshop on Avian Influenza Control

12-16 November
MINDORO, THE PHILIPPINES
ASEM Youth Dialogue

19-22 November
SEOUL, KOREA
6th ASEM Immigration Directors’ Meeting

4-5 December
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
2nd ASEM Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Senior Officials’ Meeting

17 December
LISBON, PORTUGAL
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI)

For the latest updates on ASEM events and activities, please visit the ASEM InfoBoard at www.asefinfoboard.org.

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