ASEF undertakes an expanding programme of cultural co-operation, sustaining various mechanisms for dialogue, exchange of ideas, and sharing of information and best practices in the field of arts and culture. ASEF programmes in this area allow peers of diverse nationalities and backgrounds to explore creativity, art and artistic practice in different contexts.

The **Young Artists Exchange** is a dialogue initiative for emerging artists and contemporary arts practices, consisting of **Future Image** (Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers), **Pointe-to-Point** (Asia-Europe Dance Forum), **I’mPulse** (Asia-Europe Music Camp), **Asia-Europe New Media Art Camp**, **Asia-Europe Film Meeting** and **Asia-Europe Comics Project**. Using the Internet as a tool for cultural co-operation, ASEF supports on-line platforms like **CulturE-ASEF**, an information system for visual arts, and the **SEA-Images (Synergy Asia-Europe)** website on independent cinema. One stream of ASEF cultural activities is dedicated to projects implemented in partnership with artist-run spaces, autonomous cultural centres and artists’ networks. These efforts allow sharing of cultural management strategies and stimulate future collaborations. In the area of cultural heritage, ASEF is a key supporter of the **Asia-Europe Museum (ASEMUS)**, a growing network of over 70 museums in Asia and Europe facilitates the sharing of museum collections of mutual interest and the enrichment of professional competencies, among other efforts.

Recognising that sustained communication between Asian and European cultural policymakers is essential to the promotion of cultural diversity, ASEF facilitates dialogue between cultural policy makers and artists. **Culture360**, a unique multi-disciplinary web-based tool that is currently under development, will provide real-time information on contemporary arts in ASEM countries and serve as the gateway for both artists and policymakers to greater mobility and co-operation in the cultural domain.
Around 150 museum directors and senior museum curators from Asia witnessed the official grand launch of The Virtual Collection of Masterpieces (VCM) on 13 September 2007.

The website on Asian and European museums’ masterpieces was launched by Mr. Yang-Woo Park (Korean Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism). Ambassador Wonil Cho (Executive Director of ASEF), Mr. Yoo-chul Won (Vice Governor of Gyeonggi Provincial Government) and Mr. Joo-sang Lee (Vice Chairman of Gyeonggi Provincial Assembly) were also present in the ceremony that was held in Gyeonggi Provincial Museum, in co-operation with the Gyeonggi Provincial Museum and Asia-Europe Museum (ASEMUS).

The grand launch was organised to immediately precede the ASEMUS General Conference on 14 and 15 September 2007. The meeting gathered over 40 prominent museum professionals from 25 countries, both from current ASEMUS membership as well as from museums in the extended group of ASEM countries. The meeting aimed at gathering old and new members of ASEMUS in order to review the development and chart future plans for the network and to get a new membership from non-ASEMUS member.

The meeting served successfully as a networking opportunity and therefore, enhanced international co-operation and sharing professional competence. As a result of the meeting, Muzeum Azji i Pacyfiku (Poland), Slovenski etnografski muzej (Slovenia), The Ferenc Hopp Museum of Eastern Asiatic Arts (Hungary), Victoria and Albert Museum (UK) and Mongolian Theatre Museum (Mongolia) joined the network.

For more information on ASEMUS, visit www.asemus.museum or contact Azizah Fauziah at azizah.fauziah@asef.org

About 1,000 masterpieces contributed by over 50 leading museums in Asia and Europe, VCM is a one-click-away tool to connect cultures that can inspire people from around the globe to understand and appreciate Asian heritage as well as the strong relationship between Asia and Europe.

The website triggers questions on the definition of a masterpiece: every participating museum explains why its masterpieces are considered as such. The website also provides new tools which can be used for various educational activities. It offers a unique virtual working and meeting place for museum professionals, a platform for collaboration and co-operation between the museums from both regions, and a virtual showcase of Asia-Europe museum network in cyberspace.

Interested to be part of Virtual Collection of Masterpieces?

If your museum is located in an ASEM country and it holds collections of Asian art or cultural material, you are cordially invited to be part of ASEMUS network and VCM project. For more information, please contact Manus Brinkman (VCM Content Editor) at manus@csloxinfo.com

The world is now in a paradigm shift from the manufacturing age to the contents-based age. Many scholars emphasize that content will decide the fate of one nation at the cross roads of success and failure… The Virtual Collection of Masterpieces would be an example as a new paradigm of museums by featuring cultural heritages in digital content and by providing the audience an easy access to their heritage.

– Remarks from Mr. Yang-Woo Park (Korean Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism) during the Virtual Collection of Masterpieces Grand Launch.
ASEF joined hands with COMICA (the London International Comics Festival) to bring together 14 emerging graphic novelists from 14 ASEM countries in LINGUA COMICA. In this second edition of the Asia-Europe Comics Project, the participants took part in an online artistic project, followed by a five-day dialogue using the medium of graphic novel as a main tool of communication and artistic work.

The project was organised in two phases. It started off as an online artistic project, the Asia-Europe Collaboratory, at the end August 2007 in which the participants were broken down into seven Asia-Europe pairs and worked together via the Internet. They continued their collaboration in London from 20 to 24 October 2007, where the artists met, attended panels on comics collaboration between the two regions, shared their experiences on their online works and continued it.

The online and offline collaboration was facilitated by internationally-renowned comic artists and lecturers Sarnath Banerjee (India) and Gerald Gorridge (France), and supported by a number of high-level resource people and guest lecturers, including René Feester (Belgium), Kosei Ono (Japan), Igor Tuveri (Italy) and Titus Ackermann (Germany). Paul Gravett (UK) served as the Artistic Director for this project.

The outcomes from the meeting will be made available to public in the form of a graphic novel. The graphic novel will contain the very relevant and innovative works from the talented Asia-Europe artists that for this project worked in Asia-Europe pairs, as well as solo works from each artist. The graphic novel is expected to be published by mid-2008.

The project was implemented in cooperation with the COMICA International Comics Festival in London and was supported by the Institute of Contemporary Arts London, the Goethe Institute London, the Institut Français London and the Japanese Embassy for the UK. For more information on the artistic outputs of the project, please visit www.asef.org/linguacomica07 or contact David Ocon at david.ocon@asef.org.
The fifth edition of Pointe to Point: Asia-Europe Dance Forum explored the relationships between tradition and contemporary dance in urban and rural contexts, as well as the interaction between dance and music. This challenging twelve-day project was held in Beijing and various cities in Guizhou Province, China, aiming to provide an avenue for new inspirations and to instigate questions.

In Guizhou Province, the participants had the unique opportunity to undertake five-day research trips in a remote rural area where Miao Minority group lives and preserves its ancient traditions of dance and music. Following these inspiring observations and impressions from the community, the artists then carried a series of intensive workshops in Beijing, China. The artists’ creative process received advice from choreographers Susan Burge (France-USA) and Wen Hui (China) and composers Fabrizio Cassol (Italy-Belgium) and Joyce Koh (Singapore). Less than 24 hours into the workshop, the artists were able to create pieces which were conceptually built on their experiences in Guizhou.

A public presentation was held at the Theatre of the China Arts Academy in Beijing on 24 November. This event was attended by more than 300 people, including Ambassador Lu Yongshou (ASEF Governor for China) and several embassies’ representatives.

The presentation encapsulated the artists’ experiences and observations through their exploration of the Miao Minority. Additionally, observers Jan Goossens (Belgium), Seong Hee Kim (Korea) and Jiang Dong (China) presented their thoughts and comments on the whole process in a poetic way at the event. Pointe to Point attracted several Chinese media which commended the activity as an innovative project. As the follow-up of this project, ASEF will release a publication with a documentary film covering the whole process. Furthermore, all participants are exploring ways to continue to work together. For more information on this project, please visit www.pointetopoint2007.wordpress.com, or contact Katelijn Verstraete at katelijn.verstraete@asef.org.

“From the aftermath, I’m very impressed by the imprint this experience has had on myself, by the richness of the process which reaches deep into many layers of questioning, as well as the stimulation created by interwoven energies of distinct individuals given space to work collectively outside of their usual settings… and by the complexity of all these elements put together…”
– Benoit Gazzal, France (participant)

“I overcome my identity crisis and confusion in this forum, and gain more confidence or who I am. I was interesting to find out that my multi-layer global background– Chinese, Malaysian, East-West – has the advantage of not only translating for other Chinese participants involving them in deep working relationship with European participants, but also helping me to voice my opinion as an Asian artist.”
– Mei-Ling Ng, Malaysia (participant)

The documentary will explore the relationship between the development of the project and its socio-cultural environments and by which illustrating the choreographic value in the contrast between rural and urban settings, modernity and traditions, dance and music. During the journey, the duo filmmakers combine expertise in observatory documentation and an in-depth knowledge of dance, and aims to capture their observations in a feature length documentary. The documentary will be completed in the first half of 2008. It is intended to be screened at relevant film festivals in Asia and Europe. For more information, please contact Soh Lai Yee at laiyee@asef.org.
Deep down, we all know that miracles do exist and happen all around us every day. This performance, however rough and unfinished as it was, was presented at the public performance of Pointe to Point: 5th Asia-Europe Dance Forum. And we all share one world.

The encounter that most affected all of us on stage was the one with the Miao people in Guizhou. To be most generously welcomed and embraced with open arms in so many villages, to be confronted with communities that find inspiration for most of their dances in nature, that make music every day to reconnect with their ancestors and that come together in rituals and ceremonies that are offerings to the gods, to feel the spiritual power and the radical hope of collective souls in a rapidly transforming and individualising world, is a world that rocks the very foundations of their beliefs and practices and that doesn’t necessarily want to share their experiences but would rather turn them into pretty images – all of that inspired us, made us feel grateful and humble, but it also unnerved us and made us ask many questions about the future that we are all responsible for. The way in which we manage to truly understand, value and keep alive the cultural traditions of all ethnic minorities in this world says a lot about us human beings in general. The way we manage to preserve these traditions, and at the same time invest deeply in contemporary and often critical artists, says a lot about a truly democratic society. I would like to end with a quote from a great artist of another ethnic minority, African-American feminist poet June Jordan, who once said: “We are the ones we have been waiting for.”

We are all, as artists and human beings, gifted, talented and lucky, but we also have huge responsibilities in a fascinating and very complex world.

A group of 20 emerging photographers and photography curators from 18 ASEM countries convened in Cork and Dublin to learn about and exchange information on the Asian and European photography scene and to launch new formats of virtual and actual collaboration and exchange best practices.

The focus of this year’s exchange, entitled “Create – Communicate – Promote” was on the changes in photography through the impact of digitalisation. It started in Cork, where the group attended lectures delivered by photography professionals Alex Moh (Malaysia), Celina Lurofiod (Germany-USA), Gao Lei (China), Prof. Ralph Jacobson (UK), Kimmo Lehtonen (Finland) and Suh Jinsuk (Korea). The lectures gave substantial foundation for deep analysis and discussions on issues arising from current developments in digital photography technology, as well as incurring implications on contemporary photography art and the curating of photographic exhibitions.

The lecture was sustained by several workshops to examine the aspects of creation, communication and promotion of photography in the digital era and to develop an enhanced understanding to achieve excellence and new aesthetic approaches in a digital environment. In these workshops, the participants and resource people were able to discuss the intended outcome of this project and to explore possible avenues to work on future projects.

In addition to this, two public talks were also conducted by Nick Galvin (Archive Director, Magnum London) and Prof Ralph Jacobson (Outgoing President, Royal Photography Society). It gave the opportunity for participants and the public of more than 150 people to learn about digital changes in the professional field of photography. The exchanges in Cork concluded with an exhibition showcasing one-month collaborative and individual works the participants had created prior their online exchange period.

In Dublin, the meeting was rounded up with a final exhibition of 21 slideshow projections presenting individual works of each photographer. This exhibition very well reflected the diversity of photographic, artistic and cultural backgrounds of these emerging photographers. To conclude the project, the group agreed to work on a common theme “Secured Area” followed by six-month working period towards a post project publication and exhibition.

This exchange forum was set up in partnership with Cirrus Arts Centre, Cobh Co. Cork, Cork Institute of Technology and the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IDA). For more information on this project, please visit www.asef.cit.ie/futureimage or contact Ms Katelijn Verstraete at katelijn.verstraete@asef.org

“Creating a future-oriented project which is highly adequate for the rapidly changing environment of the society and the culture of the 21st century’s digital age was especially a good starting point in that the social role and justice of the past and present photography could be newly analysed, as well as its expansion and change towards future visual images could be studied.”

– Suh Jinsuk, Korea (Facilitator)

“This is a future-oriented project which is highly adequate for the rapidly changing environment of the society and the culture of the 21st century’s digital age. It was especially a good starting point in that the social role and justice of the past and present photography could be newly analysed, as well as its expansion and change towards future visual images could be studied.”

– Alex Moh, Malaysia (Facilitator)
Recognising this, ASEF in close partnership with Artfactories and Trans Europe Halles by external facilitators, namely: Audrey Wong, Birgitta Person (Sweden), Camille Dumas (Germany), Raoul Grunstein (Finland), Annette Wolfsberger (Austria), Tay Tong (Singapore) and Guy-Andre Lagesse (France). This training empowered the participants as leaders in their field and created a basis and opportunity for long term exchange and co-operation. An online publication prepared by John Fitzgerald (Ireland) will share this experience with an even larger group of enthusiastic artists and managers of independent creative spaces in Asia and Europe.

In the past two decades, art and culture centres born from citizen initiatives have multiplied in many regions in Asia and Europe. These places are created and managed by people who come from different backgrounds and, in many cases, do not receive formal arts management training. Nevertheless, their so-called Independent Creative Art Spaces are often leading cultural organisations that exercise a great cultural influence in the local context.

For more information on this project, please visit www.indipeartspacetraining2007.wordpress.com or contact Katelijn Verstraete at katelijn.veritys@asef.org

"It was a great opportunity for Artfactories to be approached by ASEF to co-organise this event! We are very grateful that ASEF puts so much trust in our activities. It is really rewarding for us that the importance of networking and training for artists and managers of Independent Art Centres was organised, seen they generally face challenging situations in Europe as well as in Asia.”

– Anaïs Gabaut - Artfactories, France (partner)

Countries in Asia and Europe are converging around the principle of freedom of expression, recognising not only its intrinsic value for realising everyone’s full human potential, but also its indispensable contribution to developing tolerant, prosperous and harmonious societies.

This was a key conclusion from the 8th Informal ASEF Seminar on Human Rights “Freedom of Expression” that was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 26-28 September 2007. The seminar, on “Freedom of Expression”, brought together about 140 participants from governments and various sectors of civil society, representing 38 of the 43 ASEM countries, the European Commission and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat. The meeting was addressed by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen; Dr. Shash Tharoor, former UN Under-secretary-General for Communications and Public Information; and Mr. Robert Menard, founder and Secretary-General of Reporters without Borders. The seminar also featured working groups on four dimensions of freedom of expression: political rights, cultural rights, state-civil society relations and the impact of information & communications technology (ICT).

Participants affirmed the continued relevance of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any medium and regardless of frontiers.” There was no divergence of view on the positive contributions of this fundamental freedom to society. The key debates in the seminar, therefore, were not over the principle of freedom of expression, but the challenges of implementing this freedom in effective ways in ASEM countries.

A brief report on the seminar’s main conclusions from the seminar were sent shortly afterward to ASEF Senior Officials as a prelude to a more comprehensive report. For more information, please contact Sol Iglesias at sol.iglesias@asef.org

ASEF Youth Partnerships
Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange
11 Sept. – 2 October 2007
Paris, France and various ASEM countries

The activity brought together 15 participants from 11 ASEM countries for an introductory and an Evaluation training that took place in Paris, France, with an individual “job shadowing” programme in between the two trainings, which for each participant was in a different part of Asia or Europe. Established in 2001, the Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange aims at fostering better mutual understanding, co-operation and exchange between voluntary service organisations in Asia and Europe. Particular importance is given to the aspect of networking between organisations, in order to allow knowledge-transfer between the two regions and to achieve common quality standards. For more information, please contact Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org

Updates

Through the support of the ASEF Youth Partnerships, the Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE) 2007 was organised in co-operation with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) under the aegis of UNESCO.
The meeting was organised immediately after the 20th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting, which was held in Warsaw early in October. Bringing together 12 high-level participants from diverse backgrounds, nationalities and areas of expertise, the discussions of the meeting were centred around the following points: how history is often presented according to the priorities of those writing it; how history can serve as a tool for reconciliation; and how history should be taught in schools. The participants wholeheartedly welcomed this initiative by ASEF and strongly reiterated the need for increased dialogue on the importance of history as a tool for reconciliation. In particular, it was stressed that a multi-faceted approach needs to be taken, due to the broad spectrum of issues that need to be addressed, including teacher training, policy lobbying, financial support and the involvement of neutral parties in such discussions.

For more information, please visit www.politicsdialogue.asef.org or contact Sol Iglesias at sol.iglesias@asef.org.

ASEF and the Danish Youth Council (DUF), with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brought together 73 representatives from 29 ASEF countries at the 2nd Conference for Young Political Leaders. The meeting was co-sponsored by the ASEF and the Danish Youth Council (DUF), with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, bringing together 73 representatives from 29 ASEF countries at the 2nd Conference for Young Political Leaders.

The Forum was co-sponsored by the ASEF’s Dialogue of Cultures & Civilisations programme, the 11th Talks on the Hill meeting was organised from the 7-9 October in the town of Oswiecim, Auschwitz in Poland. This meeting was convened to discuss the importance and the role of history in promoting reconciliation between communities in Asia and Europe, with a particular focus on the role of history education.

As part of the fourth year of ASEF’s Dialogue of Cultures & Civilisations programme, the 11th Talks on the Hill meeting was organised from the 7-9 October in the town of Oswiecim, Auschwitz in Poland. This meeting was convened to discuss the importance and the role of history in promoting reconciliation between communities in Asia and Europe, with a particular focus on the role of history education.

The International Forum on Building Lifelong Learning Communities was held in Shanghai was among the annual subnetwork meetings under the aegis of the ASEF Education Hub Thematic Network on Lifelong Learning. The Forum was co-sponsored by the Community Education Committee of the Xuhui District of Shanghai and by the ASEF Education Hub. It was an activity of the LLC Hub sub-network on National Lifelong Learning Strategies, co-ordinated by the Chinese National Centre for Education Development Research (Ministry of Education). It was co-ordinated by the AHE Education Hub Thematic Network on Lifelong Learning, headed by the Danish School of Education. The main seminar included case studies on the macro-education policies in China, the policy and practice of valuing lifelong learning in the Nordic countries, the construction and development of a learning community in the Xuhui District and continuous learning in Finland (Finnsight2015).

The International Forum exhibits the Thematic Network on Lifelong Learning’s ability to tap into resources, including financing, from local counterparts and partners, to be able to organise its activities. This network also received political support from its Advisory Board, which is spearheaded by representatives from education ministries. In addition, it offers a remarkable number of examples on how to implement and support community learning, with a fair discussion of its achievements and limitations. Foray such as these make it possible for practitioners to engage in discourse that examines evidence where public policy and private initiatives may come together to jointly promote lifelong learning.

Building on the outcome of this Forum, The Annual General Conference of the Lifelong Learning Hub will take place in China in October 2008 and will be spearheaded by the Chinese National Centre for Education Development Research. To know more about the ASEM Education Hub and its activities, visit www.asef-asia.org.

The Conference served as the major platform for interaction and dialogue among the next generation of leaders from Asia and Europe. This multi-sector and future-oriented event undertook a critical inventory of initiatives to expand Asia-Europe youth co-operation in priority areas such as Migration, Climate Change and Multilateralism. After a fruitful exchange of views, participants reached a consensus that is reflected in the ‘Copenhagen Declaration’, which was approved unanimously on the 27th October. The Declaration will be submitted together with the General Report of the Conference for the consideration of the ASEF Leaders during the 7th ASEF Summit to be held in Beijing, China, in 2008. For more information, please contact Katerina Ragoussi at katerina@asef.org.

Twenty-two academic experts met for the first time for an international colloquium on regionalism, regionalisation, development and transition in the European Union and in Asia and a business meeting to discuss its structure and future directions.

The key objectives of RASEM’s inaugural meeting were to facilitate an intellectual discourse on the ASEM dimension of regionalism and regionalisation, and to build a framework, through consensus, that would support the network’s activities. The academic conference was open to members of both Asian studies and an institutional member of RASEM.

ASEM Education Hub Thematic Network on Lifelong Learning
International Forum on Building Lifelong Learning Communities
18-20 October 2007
Shanghai, China

ASEM Education Hub Thematic Network on Regionalism Studies (RASEM)
Inaugural Conference
25-27 October 2007
Lyon, France

Organised by CIDOB Foundation, the Coordinator of the ASEM Education Hub Thematic Network on Regionalism Studies (RASEM Network), and hosted by Université Jean Moulin Lyon II and the Institute of East Asian Studies of Université Lumiere Lyon II, the meeting was held in parallel with the conference of EastAsiaNet, an alliance of European universities co-operating on East Asian studies and an institutional member of RASEM.

To know more about the ASEM Education Hub and its activities, visit www.asef-asia.org.

RASEM and EastAsiaNet, composed of experts from Asian and European universities and thinktanks. Participants exchanged views on current trends and future projections on regionalism and the state of regionalisation studies in the two regions.

To know more about the ASEM Education Hub and its activities, visit www.asef-asia.org.

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To know more about the ASEM Education Hub and its activities, visit www.asef-asia.org.
Twenty-one representatives from 18 universities and research institutes from 15 ASEM countries gathered in Jakarta last November for the Inaugural Conference of ASEM Education Hub Thematic Network on Human Security.

The meeting was organised by the Research Unit on International Security and Co-operation (UNISIC) of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and hosted by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Jakarta. It aimed to gather key experts in energy security to exchange views on the policy orientation of various ASEM partners and form an understanding of the global and regional developments in this area. Participants urged for the inclusion of energy security as one the priorities for national governments, not only in the economic area, but also in its foreign and security policies. Energy co-operation should furthermore be a priority in multilateral agreements and organisations, such as the EU and ASEAN.

The three-day conference discussed the policy approaches made by European and Asian countries to address present-day challenges to energy security. This included a presentation of various countries’ energy security policies, as well as reflections on prospects for regional co-operation on energy security in the ASEAN and the relevance of the European Union’s policies for Asia.

The conference was a promising start for the Thematic Network on Human Security. Besides the annual gathering, the network will generate printed and online publications derived from the partnership of its members. A monitoring committee within the network has been recently created to plan and monitor its activities. In September 2008, the Thematic Network on Human Security will hold its second conference in Madrid. To know more about the ASEM Education Hub and its activities, visit www.aeh.asef.org.

In the 21st Asia-Europe Lecture Tour, Mr. Pavol Zilincík (Executive Director of VIA URIS, Slovak Republic) addressed the issue of citizens’ access to justice as an important prerequisite for the proper functioning of a democratic society.

The lecture covered the topics of Access to Justice and Law, Access to Justice and the Attorney, and Access to Justice and the Citizen. According to Mr. Zilincík, these are the three aspects surrounding justice and people’s empowerment, especially highlighting the Central European experience of democratisation processes after the end of the Cold War.

Intended to spur discussion on comparisons and contrasts with Asia, the tour kicked off with an AEP panel at the 3rd Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) International Congress in Delhi. It was followed by a lecture hosted by the National University of Laos (Vientiane), the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (Phnom Penh) and the Institute for Policy and Community Development Studies (Jakarta). It was the first time ASEF organised an event in India and Laos, where good contacts were established with the host institutions.

For more information, please contact Natalia Figge at natalia@asef.org.
The growth of a city is normally equated with economic prosperity and a burgeoning population. As they grow, many Irish cities experienced uncontrolled urban expansion that led them to be stretched beyond what they should be optimally in terms of land area.

En route for the ENVForum’s 5th Roundtable in Shenzhen, Mr. Frank McDonald, the Environment Editor of the Irish Times, was in Singapore to share his views on the urbanisation of the Irish cities and the impact on the inhabitants. Mr. McDonald also shared his experiences on reporting on the environment, how to cope with the greater emphasis on environment and how to accurately report the technical issues for public consumption.

This meeting was organised by ASEF in partnership with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA). For more information, please visit www.asef.org or contact Dewi Tjo at env@asef.org

ASEF, in partnership with the East Asian Institute (EAI) and the Embassy of France in Singapore, co-organised a public talk by novelist and dramatist Gao Xingjian, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2000. Gao, a Chinese origin who became French citizen, is a noted stage director and celebrated painter. He reflected his views on tradition and identity and on the value of being exposed to different cultures and how it influenced his works, which he writes in Mandarin. Nobel laureate, Gao’s official translator, was also present to share his experience and thoughts in translating many of his works. The public-dialogue was attended by more than 110 people. It was also covered by two national newspapers, The Straits Times; and Uinve Zaobao.

By 2008, more than 50% of the world’s population will live in urban areas—and in Asia and Europe, urban areas are experiencing a vital time of change, given the increasing attention to environmental awareness. How do urban areas cope with the various changes?

Pursuing this question and other concerns, the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum) held its 5th roundtable discussion on integrated urban management in one of the fastest growing Chinese cities, Shenzhen. The roundtable gathered 36 specially-invited participants and observers from ASEM countries.

In the second phase of its growth, the co-organisers of the Forum also featured a scenario-building workshop, led by moderators from the European Environment Agency (EEA), which introduced an innovative tool for policy-making. The meeting gathered, amongst others, Mr. Gao Xuanli, Deputy President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), as well as Mr. Zhang Jinhua, Acting Regional Co-ordinator, UNE Environment Programme Regional Resource Centre of Asia and the Pacific. From Europe, Ms. Marta Bonfert, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (RECEC) was also present as well as Mr. Richard Barnett, Director of Treasury Holdings, one of the main partners for the development project of Dongtan eco-city. The variety of representations from both regions and from the different sectors contributed to the richness of the discussions.

The meeting was co-organised by ASEF, the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Swedish Environmental Secretariat in Asia (SENSA) and was supported by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the City Development Research Center of Shenzhen Municipality. For more information, please contact Rahman Abdulah at rahman.abbudlah@asef.org

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The newly implemented Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice series held its first Advisory Group Meeting which involved nine experts representing non-government organisations, think tanks, the academic, regional institutions as well as former policy-makers. Among the high-level participants were Prof. Dr. Roel Fernhout, former National Ombudsmann of the Netherlands and Professor at the Centre for Migration Law, Radboud University, Nijmegen; Dr. Schmutz Rudolf Duerer of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe; Mr. Leona Rikilla of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) based in Nepal; Mr. Pavol Zilincik of Viasur of Slovakia; Mr. Augusto Micali, Jr., Executive Director of the Initiatives for International Dialogue, Philippines; HE Neou Korae, President of the Peace and Development Institute and former Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Cambodia; Prof. Chang-Sik Ahn, Department of Political Science, Seoul National University, Korea; Alexander Lay, Lawyer from Libis, Santos & Maulana and Member of Transparency International, Indonesia; and Rajesh Kumar, Fellow, Developing Countries Research Centre (DCRC), University of Delhi, India.

During the meeting Advisory Group members explored how to best promote a co-operative network and identified a suitable design for the new Asia-Europe Democracy and Justice series. They brainstormed on new ideas for activities under this series and came up with two detailed workshop concepts for the year 2008. The meeting was organised in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation Indonesia. For more information, please contact Natalia Figue at natalia@asef.org.

The European Studies in Asia (ESIA) network organised a two-and-a-half day event that kicked off with the launch of ESIA’s new publication of “The EU through the Eyes of Asia: Media, Public and Elite Perceptions in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand”. Prof. Ediberto De Jesus, Former Secretary of Education of the Philippines, and Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, Head of Delegation of the European Commission in the Philippines delivered keynote speeches to over fifty workshop participants and thirty distinguished guests in attendance. The first part of the workshop was devoted to disseminating and discussing the findings of ESIA’s pilot project “EU through the Eyes of Asia” that attempts to measure the media, public and elite perceptions of the EU in Asian ASEM countries. The session focused on highlights of a series of interviews conducted with political, media, business and civil society in five Asian countries, namely, China (including Hong Kong), Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand, regarding their perceptions of the EU. This session also marked the launch of the next phase of the project in 2008 in Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The second part of the workshop discussed European studies curriculum development in Asia and Europe. Eleven speakers shared their insights and experiences regarding curriculum development for European studies in their respective universities. Mr. Ramon Molina, ASEF Director for People-to-People Exchange, concluded the session with a presentation of ASEF’s education and academic co-operation initiatives. The workshop was attended by Ambassador Takayuki Kimura, ASEF Board Governor for Japan, and was organised by ASEF in partnership with the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), Ateneo de Manila University (the Philippines) and the University of Warsaw (Poland). The event would not have been possible without the support of Ambassador Rosario Manalo, ASEF Board Governor for the Philippines and Director of Ateneo de Manila’s European Studies Programme. For more information, please visit esia.asef.org or contact Ira Martina Drupady at ira.martina@asef.org.
The Second Advisory Committee Meeting brought together 21 experts in higher education co-operation, representing leading academic networks and institutions in the two regions, to focus on three tasks that are salient to the future of ASEM Education Hub.


In recognition of the continued importance of promoting dialogue and understanding, this conference was an occasion to focus on key areas of concern, such as racism and xenophobia, the relationship between religion and the state, the impact of the media and the relationship between the private and public sector.

This conference sought to further synergies amongst participants and institutions by encouraging them to focus on avenues for translating ideas and recommendations that come out of this dialogue into concrete policy recommendations. This event featured prominent personalities from governments, international organisations and civil society such as Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General Designate and Dr. Katerina Stenou, Director of the Division of Cultural Policy and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO.

The conference was co-organised with World Public Forum - Dialogue of Civilisations (WPF-DC) and with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Académie Diplomatique Internationale and the Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS).

For more information, please visit www.civdialogue.asef.org or contact Ira Martina at ira.martina@asef.org

These three tasks are: to review the ASEM Education Hub activities in 2007 and outline its strategy and workplan for 2008, to report on the main evolutions and issues in Asian and European Higher Education Sectors, and to prepare a jointly elaborated framework for two key higher education summits, the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting and First ASEM Rectors’ Conference.

Co-organised by ASEF and the University of Alicante, the Meeting was attended by the head and senior officers of important regional and international academic networks, such as the UNESCO, International Association of Universities, the Academic Cooperation Association, the European University Association and the ASEAN University Network. National university networks were also represented, including the German Rectors’ Conference, the Irish Universities Association and the Association of Indian Universities, the first member from among the new ASEM partners. All Coordinators, who lead the activities of the AEH Thematic Networks, were also present.

Overall, it was agreed that the AEH concept and structure remain valid, that the AEH Thematic Networks are delivering positive results that justify further support and that the AEH has received some visibility through these various pillars of work. However, it was also discussed that the Hub should focus on two parallel and mutually reinforcing objectives in 2008: to enhance its outreach and to maximise its potential as a source of expertise and innovation, as well as a force of proposal.

University Sains Malaysia, based in Penang, offered to host the third Advisory Committee Meeting in December 2008. To know more about the ASEM Education Hub and its activities, visit www.aeh.asef.org
New Publications

European Studies in Asia (ESIA) ESIA eMonitor 5 Editor: Peter Ryan The fifth issue of the ESIA eMonitor was published in January 2007. It featured ESIA’s recent Workshop on the Future of European Studies in Asia which was held in Manila, the Philippines, on 5-7 December 2007. The electronic newsletter also announced a new ESIA publication: "The EU through the Eyes of Asia: Media, Public and Elite Perceptions in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand". This publication was presented to H.E. Manuel Jose Barroso, President of the European Commission, during his visit to the ASEF premises on 22 November 2007, upon the conclusion of the EU-ASEAN Summit. For more information, please visit www.esia. asief.org or contact Ira Martina Drupady at ira.martina@asief.org

Asia-Europe Environment Forum ENVforum e-newsletter 2 Editor: Peter Ryan The latest issue of ENVforum quarterly e-Newsletter features a contribution on the approach of the Korean metropolitan city of Ulsan toward urban management. From a small fishing village to the seventh largest city of Asia, Ulsan typifies the rapid growth some Asian cities aspire. Discover how Ulsan seeks to find balance between economic growth, quality of life and environmental concerns. This edition also looks at other related news on urban management as well as on the recently held UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Meeting in Bali. Visit www. envforum.org/ for more information. Please contact Rahiman Abdulla at rahiman.abdulla@ asief.org

Asian Studies in Asia (ESIA) The Asia Europe Journal (AEJ) Editor-in-Chief: Albrecht Rothacher The Asia Europe Journal (AEJ), the quarterly research-based periodical of ASEF, is devoted to publish interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities. This publication features the contributions from esteemed scholars invited to the 13th ASEF University that was held in Leiden, The Netherlands, surrounding the theme “Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the International Legal Order in the 21st Century”, which examines the international legal order, from its theoretical basic to the modern-day challenges posed on international law and practice.

1st Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue Editor: Ramon Molina The Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue is a platform which main aim is to foster mutual understanding and the peaceful co-existence of different civilizations and cultures which are united by their diversity. The inaugural project was the 1st Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue that, held on 19-23 November 2006 in Navarra (Spain), and co-organised by ASEF, Casa Asia and the Government of Navarra. This publication features the contributions of esteemed experts and tackles the state of Asia-Europe interfaith dialogue. It includes conclusions from panelists, speakers and facilitators; as well as a general report of the conference and the main outcome: The Javier Declaration that aims to seek support for the further development of closer youth interfaith co-operation between Asia and Europe.

AEJ Volume 5 Number 3 Editor-in-Chief: Albrecht Rothacher The Asia Europe Journal (AEJ), the quarterly research-based periodical of ASEF, is devoted to publish interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities. This publication features the contributions from esteemed scholars invited to the 13th ASEF University that was held in Leiden, The Netherlands, surrounding the theme “Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the International Legal Order in the 21st Century”, which examines the international legal order, from its theoretical basic to the modern-day challenges posed on international law and practice.

AEJ Volume 5 Number 3 contents:
Jørgen Østrem Møller – SHF in Global Economic Power: This is South East Asia’s Moment	
Timo Kinnari – Europe and Asian International Co-operation
Kenneth A. Reinert – The European Union, the Doha Round, and Asia	
Carol M. Eden & Richard C. Murphy – EU-China Relations: Balancing Political Challenges with Economic Opportunities
Matthew Brouder – The EU’s refusal to grant China ‘Market Economy Status’ (MES)
Hong Zhou – A Chinese perspective on Liberal Strategy
Mike Young Lee – The EU’s Korea Relationship: Enlargement Effects
Tri Widodo – European Presence in Indonesia
Brigitte Gauvin & Serap健康管理 – Regional Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: Lessons from the European Experience
H.D. Evers & A.K. Horrocks – Knowledge Hubs along the Straits of Malacca
Albrecht Rothacher – Book review: Genocide and Survival in Pol Pot’s Cambodia by Ben Kiernan
Staff News

Incoming Staff:
- Ms. Grace Foo, Singapore (Admin/Project Officer, Intellectual Exchange)
- Mr. Bogdan Imre, Romania (Project Officer, People-to-People Exchange)
- Ms. Christine Chae Hoo Kyung, Korea (Administrative Officer, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Tara Shyam, India (Intern, Deputy Executive Director's Office)

Outgoing Staff:
- Ms. Zareen Tia Siew Keng, Singapore (Administrative Executive, Public Affairs)
- Ms. Rosny Kasim, Singapore (Administrative Officer, Admin and Finance)
- Ms. Lindsay Courtney, Ireland (Intern, Cultural Exchange)

Appointment:
- Ms. Sol Iglesias (the Philippines) is appointed Assistant Director, Intellectual Exchange

Visits to ASEF
- 21 November 2007: Ambassador Hans Henning Blomeyer-Bartenstein, Director-General for Asian and Pacific Affairs, Federal Foreign Office, Germany
- 22 November 2007: H.E. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
  - On his private visit to ASEF, President Barroso was briefed on the Foundation’s activities. In his remarks, President Barroso stressed the importance of Asia-Europe relations. He commended ASEF for its contributions in broadening Asia-Europe ties, and reiterated the European Commission’s commitment to the mission of the Foundation.
- 23 November 2007: Ms. Isolde Moylan, Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

Governors’ News
- Mr. Ahmad Sabihitno was appointed Governor representing the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Mr. Chen Xu of China was succeeded by Ambassador Lu Yonghui.
- Mr. Richard Piks of Latvia was succeeded by Ambassador Dr. Einars Semaris.
- Ambassador Ladislav Volko of Slovakia was succeeded by Mr. Milan Zachar.
ASEF actively works with the mass media to raise public awareness on issues related to cross-continental relation. Selections of news clippings as the result of such effort are presented below. For the complete list of news clipping, please visit www.asef.org/dir/InTheNews
ASEM Calendar
January – June 2008

6-18 March 2008
STRASBOURG; BRUSSELS; BUDAPEST; BUCHAREST; TRNAVA
Lecture Tour by Kassie Neou
“Transitional Justice and Human Rights in Cambodia”
Hosts: The Robert-Schuman University France, Human Rights Without Frontiers Belgium, the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) Belgium, Human Rights Student’s Initiative – Central European University Hungary, The Media Monitoring Agency Romania & Center for Public Advocacy (VIA IURIS) Slovakia in partnership with the University of Trnava, Slovakia

7 March 2008
STRASBOURG, FRANCE
ASEM Informal Human Rights Series
Steering Committee Meeting

21-30 March 2008
BANGKOK, THAILAND
5th Asia-Europe Art Camp
“re-Vision Bangkok: New Media Art & Interactivity”
Partners: School of Fine & Applied Arts, Bangkok University & Silpakorn University Gallery

3-4 April 2008
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
ASEM Education Hub
Advisory Board Meeting on the Thematic on Lifelong Learning
Partner: Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture

April 2008 (exact date t.b.c.)
SINGAPORE
Asia-Europe Museums Network
ASEMUS Executive Committee Meeting

2-3 March 2008
LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting

10 March 2008
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
ASEM European Union-Asian Development Bank Joint Conference
“European and Asian Integration – Achievements and Challenges”

3-4 April 2008
MADRID, SPAIN
6th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism

11-12 April 2008
HANOI, VIETNAM
1st ASEM Forum on Energy Security Policy

15-16 April 2008
MARIBOR, SLOVENIA
ASEM Senior Official’s Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI)

5-6 May 2008
GERMANY
1st ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education and Qualification

3-4 June 2008
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
1st ASEM Labour and Employment SOM (SLOM)

2-3 March 2008
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
4th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue

15 June 2008
JEJU ISLAND, KOREA
ASEM Conference
“Asia, Europe and the Future of Regional Economic Integration”

15 June 2008
JEJU ISLAND, KOREA
ASEM Finance Deputies’ Meeting

16 June 2008
JEJU ISLAND, KOREA
8th ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (FinMM)

18 – 20 June 2008 (tbc)
BEIJING, CHINA
Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting
ASEP 5

June – July 2008 (tbc)
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
ASEM Social Partners Forum

(Exact date t.b.c.)
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
3rd ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting

For the latest information, please visit the official information platform of ASEM process: www.aseminfoboard.org

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ASEFNews is published by the Public Affairs Department, Asia-Europe Foundation