The need for intercultural dialogue is nowhere else more apparent than in today's rapidly changing world, with threats to the advancement of society coming from sources as diverse as rising extremism, ignorance, misperception and misunderstandings.

With this in mind, the promotion of mutual tolerance and respect, and fostering intercultural understanding and appreciation of intercultural diversity has been integral to the work of ASEF. Our activities in this area are focused on interfaith dialogue, cultural diversity and solutions for multicultural societies.

With a view of bridging people from Asia and Europe together in active and sustained dialogue, a variety of formats are employed depending on the type of audience and the sensitivities involved. Some programmes bring together small groups of high-level personalities in a think-tank style meeting behind closed doors, while others take the form of seminars, conferences, and other public activities.

ASEF’s work in this area are channeled towards establishing new interactions and strengthening communications across the diverse strata of societies in the two continents. The following pages contain details on ASEF recent activities in this field, between the period of May-August 2008.
Culture360, the only multidisciplinary arts and cultural online tool focused on Asia and Europe, was launched and introduced in various important occasions in Asia and Europe.

Culture360, designed as an information platform and to facilitate collaboration, interaction and exchange of ideas amongst the arts and cultural communities across Asia and Europe, was first introduced alongside the Culture Ministers’ Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2008. In the Meeting, the Ministers pledged their engagement and financial support to Culture360 and encouraged ASEF to continue its efforts in developing the portal. It was followed by a series of portal soft-launches in order to introduce the portal to the public. It began with a soft-launch in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in the framework of the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM) and introduced in various important occasions in Asia and Europe.

The advent of new media platform has facilitated the speedier movement of ideas and information. Taking an active role in the Internet where today’s communication takes place in various forms therefore becomes a necessity. This is particularly true for media and religious organisations whose websites could act as the “gatekeepers” for information during major interfaith crises.

These are some observations arising from the 6th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Focusing on “Interfaith Relations in the Globalised Digital World,” the Colloquium sought to promote mutual understanding and respect in the “Amsterdam Statement of Interfaith Dialogue”. The summary of conclusions of this Colloquium is available on ASEF website. For more information, please contact Mr. Cahyadi Indrananta at cahyadi@asef.org.

ASEF meetings are the only place and time where a media professional in Europe can exchange experience with Asian colleagues. Excellent dialogue and understanding.

Mr. Elenko Elenkov (Bulgaria) presenting his view on blogging.

One example of the concrete work of ASEF is the Culture360. The challenge now is the make this tool flexible and user-friendly enough to be useful to different stakeholders with different needs. Sweden is looking forward to seeing this communication tool develop.”

Swedish delegates in their official statement during the 2nd ASEM Cultural Ministers’ Meeting.
ASEM countries, with various profiles and experiences in the field of interfaith dialogue. The main aim of the Dialogue was to encourage participants to deepen their knowledge on interfaith challenges and get encouraged to take actions in the process of reaching a better interfaith understanding on local and international levels.

In order to add the value to the voices of Youth participating in the project and assure the visibility of the Interfaith Dialogue results, by the end of the project, the “Bandung Statement”, which was the outcome of all the work and discussions that had taken place during the event, was read out loud at the Closing Ceremony of the event.

Together with ASEF alumnus Mr. Asad Latif of the Institute of South East Asian Studies, ASEF organised a Symposium on the controversial and extensively-reviewed book “The New Asian Hemisphere” by the Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and former senior diplomat Prof. Kishore Mahbubani.

The book deals with the rising political and economic influence of the East, and the response of the West to this phenomenon. ASEF invited three Singapore-based scholars, Asst. Prof. Alan Chong (National University of Singapore), Mr. Shafqat Munir (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies) and Amb. Jørgen Ørstrøm Møller of ISEAS (ASEF Governor for Denmark) to comment on the book. Prof. Mahbubani responded to the presentations. This was followed by a lively Q&A session.

The response to the Symposium was excellent. More than 110 guests from the various embassies, governmental bodies, international organisations, educational and cultural bodies, business and media attended the event.

The Symposium’s video recordings and the presentations will be made available on ASEF’s website as soon as possible. For further information, please contact Mr. Leonie Schneider at leonie.schneider@asef.org.
The European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network organised an interim workshop in Hanoi, followed by a two-day Methodology Workshop in Singapore which brought together a member of each of the respective research teams to offer further training and progress updates to the co-ordinators.

The three-day workshops, hosted by the School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Vietnam National University of Hanoi, was attended by seven researchers from Vietnam National University, Universitas Indonesia and Ateneo de Manila University who are taking part in the next phase of the ESiA study. It provided an opportunity for the researchers and the research teams to meet and discuss the challenges they faced in producing the Vietnam, Indonesia and The Philippines phase of the study. At the workshop, the researchers presented their progress and discussed the future planning for the study. The workshop also offered further training to the researchers on how to collect and compile the data efficiently.

The Singapore workshop, held at the ASEP premises, offered the co-ordinators the opportunity to track the progress of the respective teams and address any issues that had arisen following the Hanoi workshop. Both workshops saw the teams from the three countries present their major findings from the media analyses (3 newspapers and a TV channel) collected from their respective countries. This was followed by a collaborative session whereby each team examined the comparative cases of images of the EU in terms of economic and political framing, social, environmental and developmental framing, and the framing of the visibility of ASEM. The second part of each workshop examined the findings of the respective teams in relation to their Elite interviews. The teams disseminated the information on the perceptions of the EU by Elites and examined the comparative cases of each of their findings.

The Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines edition of the publication will be available early 2009. For more information please visit http://esia.asef.org or contact Mr. Ronan Lenihan at ronan.lenihan@asef.org

A ASEF and the Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations co-organised the 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Europe Youth Network for Sustainable Development (AEYNSD), which was tasked to help the network to become more systematic and to ensure that its democratic process is upheld. The Steering Committee members designed the meeting around the concept of legalising AEYNSD, creating a new, independent legal entity. The main issues they discussed and agreed about were The Network’s organisational structure, representation and membership, strategic planning, as well as immediate follow-up.

The Meeting created a concrete action plan for the 1st Convening Assembly of the AEYNSD. Young People for Development Cambodia, one of the AEYNSD’s member organisations, has expressed interest and has taken the responsibility to organise the follow-up event under the title “Making Commitments Matter” – 1st Convening Assembly of the AEYNSD” in November 2008 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

This publication “The EU through the Eyes of Asia: Media, Public, and Elite Perceptions” presents the findings of the first two phases of EU through the Eyes of Asia (ESiA) project, a major academic collaboration to compare the media, public and elite perceptions of the European Union in Asian ASEM countries.

This project, initiated in partnership with the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), aims to provide scientific analysis and build the capacity of policy-making processes in the EU, third countries and the media.

The Hanoi book launch was held in conjunction with the National Centre for Research on Europe, the School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Vietnam National University, Hanoi and the Delegation of the European Commission in Vietnam. It featured keynote speeches from Ambassador Sean Doyle, Head of the EC Delegation and Prof. Nguyen Van Kanh, Rector of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The Seoul book launch was held in partnership with the EU Research Center, Korea University and the SNU-KEF Centre for EU Studies. Keynote speeches were made by H.E. Kim, Director of the Council for Europe in Korea Dr. Brian McDonald and ASEF Executive Director Ambassador Wonil Cho.

The book launch in Bangkok was organised in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Department of European Studies, Chulalongkorn University. Presentations on the study were made by Prof. Martin Holland (NCRE) and Prof. Apirat Petchwattana (Chulalongkorn University). This was followed by a keynote presentation by Head of the EC Delegation in Thailand Ambassador Friedrich Hamburger.

The three book launches were well attended in all three cities, gathering a mix of high-level professionals from the diplomatic community, the academy, the business and media sectors as well as students.

The events are part of the seven book launches that ASEF is organising in cities around Asia to promote the publication and the ESiA network. Upcoming book launches are planned for Tokyo, Beijing and Hanoi. For more information, please contact Mr. Ronan Lenihan at ronan.lenihan@asef.org.

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The sixth instalment of Asia-Europe Art Camp was organised on the sidelines of the International Symposium for Electronic Arts (ISEA) 2008. Titled “Ludic Times – The Art of Gaming”, it was conceptualised around the theme of gaming and the nature of our contemporary ludic culture.

A team of resource persons consisted of two leaders: Pavel Sedlak (Centre of Art and Technology, Prague), and Mei Kei Lai (artist-in-residence in ISEA) and Eng Tat Khoo (Mixed Technology, Prague), Eng Tat Khoo (Mixed Technology, Prague). The workshops saw the following presentations: “Casual Game Design” by Jason Yap, “Character Design” by Kiew Sen Liah, “Pocket Gameland” (casual game-like sound engine) by Mei Lai, “Machinimas” by Ivor Diosi, “Game Engine” (first person shooter game modification) by Ivan Diosi, “Machinimas” by Ivor Diosi, “Virtual Design” by Jiwee Lai, “Game Design” by Jiwei Lai, and “Scent of Art” (used for olfactory experience as the new interface for games) by Mei Kei Lai. It was followed by a lecture session on “Pocket Gamelan” (casual game-like sound engine) by Mei Kei Lai. The workshops were monitored as well.

The workshops were held at the University of Singapore, Technological University, and also by the Republic Polytechnic, Singapore. For more information, please contact Mr. Kylie Free at kylie_free@asef.org.

The Art Camp participants had the opportunities to attend several activities of the Mini-Summit on New Media Art Policy and Practice and ISEA2008 which was organised simultaneously. The participants were also given the opportunity to present their group work to 150 audiences during the ISEA at the National Museum of Singapore. The Art Camp was made possible due to the support of Gallery Hotel, Singapore. For more information, please visit the project’s blog at http://artcampsingapore.wordpress.com.
This meeting gathered the steering committee members of the Asia-Europe ENVforum to evaluate and strategize the activities under this series.

The one-day meeting, hosted by the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia in Bangkok, revolved around the upcoming ENVforum 6th Roundtable and the ENVforum Track II Series. It was co-organized by the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) and the Asia-Europe Secretariat for the Environment (ASEF). The meeting brought together representatives from various sectors, including government, civil society, and the private sector.

Topics that had been identified for ENVforum to focus on in 2009 were biodiversity and ecosystem services. The meeting saw the participation of the Energy and Resources Institute, India and the Regional Environmental Centre, Hungary. A representative of the Asia-Europe Youth Network for Sustainable Development, a network under the umbrella of ASEF’s People-to-People Exchange department observed the meeting and made a presentation to introduce its activities. This meeting also welcomed the representative from Korea Environment Institute, a new partner of ENVforum.

For more information, please contact Ms. Dewi Suyenti Tio at dewi.tio@asef.org

5th Asia-Europe Art Camp

The post-project publication of the fifth edition of the Asia-Europe Art Camp, RE-VISION BANGKOK: NEW MEDIA ART AND INTERACTIVITY, contains the results of a week of intensive collaboration among Asian and European artists in sharing their concepts, thoughts, experience, and artistic creation.

For more information, please contact Ms. Jerneja Rebernak at jerneja.rebernak@asef.org

Asia-Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET)

AEC-NET e-newsletter

The latest issue of the AEC-NET quarterly e-newsletter features the upcoming 7th AEC-NET Conference which will be held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 12-16 December 2008, in collaboration with the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO, Malaysia. The e-newsletter also features the Call for Applications for the 7th AEC-NET Conference as well as the new AEC Project Proposal for “Citizens of the World”.

For more information or to subscribe to the e-newsletter, please visit www.aec.asf.org or contact Ms. Angie Toh at info@aec.asef.org

Asia-Europe Shorts (2006)

Editors: David Ocin Fernandez, Neelima Reddy and Agnes Cheng

The main content of this DVD is 12 short films produced by film students from Asia and Europe at the 5th Asia-Europe Dance Forum. The film Amazing Grace, also in this publication, attempts to capture the impression of the AEC Project Proposal for “Citizens of the World”.

For more information, please contact Ms. Katelijn Verstraete at katelijn.verstraete@asef.org

5th Asia-Europe Dance Forum

Pointe to Point

Editors: Kateleijn Verstraete, Neelima Reddy

This publication includes reflections from the choreographers and composers on the experiences in Guizhou, China and the artistic collaboration in Beijing, China, and the artistic collaboration in Beijing, China, during the Pointe to Point: 5th Asia-Europe Dance Forum. This publication includes interviews with the students and the resource persons.

For more information, please contact Ms. Kateleijn Verstraete at katelijn.verstraete@asef.org

The process-oriented Art Camp explored the possibility of connecting new media art practices to the Relational Aesthetic concept. It also features the result of the Art Camp’s fieldwork assignment where the participants tried to envision several different social and cultural urban spaces in Bangkok. The publication includes a DVD containing the Art camp activity and artists’ fieldwork interventions.

For more information on the publication, please contact Ms. Jenneja Rebernak at jerneja.rebernak@asef.org.

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Asia Europe Journal

AEJ Volume 6 No. 2

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Albrecht Rothacher

Asia Europe Journal is devoted to publishing interdisciplinary and intercultural studies and research between Asia and Europe in the social sciences and humanities. Fields of interest include various aspects of bilateral relationships, comparative studies as well as Asian area studies from a European perspective and vice versa. Published quarterly, each volume is intended to focus on one major subject of bi-regional interest.

Volume 6 No. 2 Focus:
“International Co-operation on Environmental Issues: Asian and European Perspectives”

Original Papers:
- Ooi Gek Long: Cities and Sustainability - South East Asian and European Perspectives
- Jörn Keck: EU-Japan “Structured Cooperation” and Energy Efficiency for Asia
- Constantin Holzer and Zhang Haibo: The Potentials and Limits of China-EU Cooperation on Climate Change and Energy Security
- Astrid Fritz Carraça: Environmental Aspects in Free Trade Agreements in the Asia Pacific Region
- Fu Cong: The Evolution and Transformation of European Environmental Policy and Law
- Alexandros Flamos e.a.: EU and Asian Policies and Programmes for the Diffusion of Sustainable Energy Technologies
- Alberto Ribiotti e.a.: Operational Oceanography in Indonesia
- Myo Nyunt: The Development of Environmental Management in Myanmar
- N.T. Son e.a.: Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management in the Mekong Delta
- Yvonne Klöpper: Southeast Asian Water Conflicts - From a Political Geography Perspective
- Sophanarith Kim e.a.: Assessment of Non-Timber Products in Pheon Kok Community Forest, Cambodia
- Merit Korbe: Chinese Medicine in an Occidental Perspective
- Sivapat Kathanavalee and Muhr Nohd Muhr Yurus: Waste to Wealth

Book Reviews:
- Peter Anderson and Georg Wiesala (eds.): The European Union and Asia, by F. Cameron
- Kishore Mahbubani: The New Asian Hemisphere: the irresistible shift of global power to the east, by A.-U. I. Lutfi
- Matteo Boecker (ed.): Asia. Changing the World, by A. Rothacher

Green Action Call for Participation

Asia-Europe TV Documentary Co-Production

We are calling for contributions that focus on developments in the media landscape, media usage and consumer behaviour in Asia and Europe. The submissions could deal with Asian and European mass communication networks, the challenges and dangers of a social-digital divide, the inter-dependencies of media, economics and politics, etc.

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.

If you would like to submit a paper, please send your submission in electronic form (MS Word document) to asiaeuropejournal@asef.org by 30 November 2008.

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

Visits to ASEF
- 27 May 2008: Mr. N. Urtansal, Secretary-General of the National Commission of UNESCO, Mongolia
- 29 May 2008: Dr. Hans-Georg Knopp, Secretary-General of Goethe-Institute, Germany
- 30 May 2008: Mr. Raong Yil, President of Wossuk University, Korea
- 3 June 2008: Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN
- 15 August 2008: Minister Yoo Chong Ha, Chairman of AHED Korea & the Jeju Delegation led by Ambassador Moon Ha Yong, Korea

Govorner’s News
- Ambassador Datin Paduka Hajah Maimunah binti Dato Haji Alias of Brunei Darussalam succeeded by Ambassador Pengiran Hajj Yusuf bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud

Outgoing Staff:
- Mr. Bertrand Fort, France (Deputy Executive Director)
- Mr. Tang Tuan Huat, Singapore (Administrator, Finance and Administration)
- Ms. Ira Martina Drupady, Indonesia (Project Officer, Cultural Exchange)
- Mr. Rahanim Abdullah, Singapore (Project Executive, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Valerie Remollo, Philippines (Project Executive, People-to-People Exchange)
- Ms. Azizah Fauziah, Indonesia (Project Officer, Cultural Exchange)

Appointments:
- Ms. Natalia Figge, Germany, has been appointed as Project Manager of Intellectual Exchange
- Ms. Leonie Schneider, Germany, has been appointed as Project Manager of Public Affairs
- Mr. Cesar Morales, Spain, has been appointed as Project Officer of Cultural Exchange
- Ms. Lea Bontosouliou, Greece, has been appointed as Project Officer of Public Affairs
- Ms. Wendy Lee, Singapore, has been appointed as Administrative Executive of Finance and Administration
- Ms. Kay Lee, Korea, has been appointed as Admin/Project Officer of Cultural Exchange
- Ms. Christine Chao, Korea, has been appointed as Project Officer of People-to-People Exchange
- Mr. Ronan Lenihan, Ireland, has been appointed as Project Officer of Intellectual Exchange
- Ms. Dewi Suyeti Tio, Indonesia, has been appointed as Project Officer of Intellectual Exchange
- Ms. Kristine Lucero, the Philippines, has been appointed as Project Officer of Public Affairs
- Ms. Andrea Mattei, Romania, has been appointed as Temporary Project Officer of the Executive Office

Congratulations to the following staff who have been appointed to new positions:
- Ms. Kristine Lucero, the Philippines, has been appointed as Project Officer of Intellectual Exchange
- Ms. Dewi Suyeti Tio, Indonesia, has been appointed as Project Officer of Intellectual Exchange
- Ms. Kristine Lucero, the Philippines, has been appointed as Project Officer of Public Affairs
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Staff News

Incoming Staff:
- Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Vietnam (Deputy Executive Director)
- Mr. Michael Laserra, the Philippines (Administrative Officer, Finance and Administration)
- Ms. Jerneja Reberak, Slovenia\emph{al}ty (Project Officer, Cultural Exchange)
- Ms. Helen Sophia Chua Balderama, the Philippines (Project Officer, People-to-People Exchange)
- Ms. Shuwen Lu, China (Intern, Public Affairs)
- Mr. Michal Skrzek, Poland (Intern, People-to-People Exchange)

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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 clippings, please visit www.asef.org.

ASEF Director of Cultural Exchange Mr. Jean Anes and Assistant Director Ms. Katelijn Verstraete participated in the EU-Slovenia Conference on “New Paradigms, New Models: Culture in the EU External Relations,” held on 13-15 May 2008 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

In a separate event, Mr. David Ocon, Project Manager of Cultural Exchange took part in the Cinemalaya Film Congress, titled “Spreading the News: Promoting, Distributing, and Exhibiting Indie Films” on 15-16 July 2008 in Manila, the Philippines.

Cultural Exchange News

Public Affairs participated in the jury of the 5th World TV Award 2008. Mindful of media’s crucial role in promoting awareness, maintaining cultural diversity and fostering understanding, this award goes to the best television documentary promoting religious understanding and tolerance. Participation was open to all broadcasters and is organised by the Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcast Development (AIBD) with the support of a few renowned international broadcasters. The winner of the award was “The Letter” produced by Chedza Media Production and broadcasted by South African Broadcasting Association. ASEF’s support for this Award Programme is in line with one of its key tenets of work – promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue.

In August, Mr. Bertrand Fort’s term as ASEF Deputy Executive Director came to an end and Amb. Nguyen Quoc Khanh assumed office. Mr. Fort, who has been posted back to the French Foreign Ministry, spent six years in ASEF, first as Director of the Intellectual Exchange Department, and then as Deputy Executive Director. He made a significant role in its evolution as a respected interface between civil society and policymakers. We wish him all the best in his endeavours.

We also became Ambassador to the ASEAN Family. Ambassador Khairi was previously the Director General of Southeast Asia – South Asia & South Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. He was also Permanent Representative to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in 2002. Ambassador Khairi obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Diplomacy from the Institute of International Relations and post-graduate degree in International Relations from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands.

In the news

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ASEF Calendar
September – December 2008

ASEF will organise five flagship projects in support of the 7th ASEM Summit in Beijing, China, from 24-25 October 2008. This is a demonstration of ASEF’s central role in complementing the ASEM process.

- 24-27 September 2008
  BEIJING, CHINA
  Model ASEF 2008
  Partners: All-China Youth Federation, ASEF University Alumni Network
- 9-13 October 2008
  CHINA
  Dialogue on Art & Climate Change
  Partners: Danish Cultural Institute, China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA)
- 17-18 October 2008
  BEIJING, CHINA
  Connecting Civil Societies III: “An Asia-Europe Dialogue on Economy and Society”
  Partners: Regional Centre for Sustainable Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, International Institute for Integration Studies (Ireland), Institute of Global Environmental Strategies, Korea Environment Institute
- 15-17 October 2008
  MADRID, SPAIN
  ASEM Education Hub
  “Thematic Network Meeting on Human Security Conference – Global Warming and Climate Change: Visions from Asia and Europe”
  Partners: UNESCO, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- 10 October 2008
  QUEZON CITY, THE PHILIPPINES
  Asia-Europe Workshop Series 2007/2008
  “Towards the Development of Teaching Program for Higher Education in Environmental Governance”
  Partners: University of the Philippines, University of London (United Kingdom)
- 10 October 2008
  KOREA
  Asia-Europe Environment Forum
  Track Series
  “Track 8: Panel 1: Climate Change Adaptation”
  Host: Korean Environmental Institute
- 11-13 October 2008
  MADRID, SPAIN
  Asia-Europe Roundtable Meeting for Investment Promotion Agencies
  Regional China
  ASEM Roundtable Meeting for Investment Promotion Agencies
  24-25 October 2008
  BEIJING, CHINA
  7th ASEM Summit
  2nd half of 2008
  FRANCE
  7th ASEM Immigration Directors’ Meeting
  2nd half of 2008
  VIETNAM
  ASEF Conference: Cultural Diversity – The Asian Experience
  2nd half of 2008
  ASIA
  ASEM Workshop on Digital Divide/ICT for Development
  2nd half of 2008/early 2009
  BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
  1st ASEM Ministerial Conference on Energy Security
  (TBC)
  INDONESIA
  ASEM Training on Empowering Local Community in Use of ICT
  (TBC)
  INDONESIA
  ASEM Cooperation of Research and Development in ICT in Strengthening Research Institutions

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

This Newsletter is printed on environmentally friendly paper.