ASEF Calendar

- **15-16 April 2010**
  - Asia-Europe Environment Forum
  - Berlin, Germany

- **25-26 May 2010**
  - ASEM Initiative For The Rapid Containment Of Pandemic Influenza
  - Brussels, Belgium

- **30 May-1 June 2010**
  - ASEM Forum on Information Communication Technology
  - Brussels, Belgium

- **25-26 June 2010**
  - ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
  - Brussels, Belgium

- **23 April 2010**
  - ASEM Seminar on Piracy at Sea
  - Brussels, Belgium

- **6-8 May 2010**
  - ASEM Seminar on Piracy at Sea
  - Brussels, Belgium

- **28-29 April 2010**
  - ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
  - Brussels, Belgium

- **25-26 May 2010**
  - ASEM Initiative For The Rapid Containment Of Pandemic Influenza
  - Brussels, Belgium

ASEF Network for Public Health

Globalisation, economic integration and demographic shifts have placed demands on existing social services such as public health. A pandemic outbreak is a frightening prospect, given the current state of global interdependencies. Moreover, people’s lives in both regions have been affected by limited access to medical treatment for diseases.

In this issue, you will find:

- **ASEM Education Hub**
- **ASEM European Foundation Trimester Newsletter**
- **New Publications**
- **ASEM Calendar**
- **ASEM Network for Public Health**
- **In this Issue**
- **ASEM Newsflash**
- **ASEM updates**
- **ASEM in the News**

ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza

This initiative, 2009-2013, was funded by the European Commission and the ASEF National Delegations.

Aims:

- To increase the preparedness of ASEF countries and regions to respond to the challenges of pandemics of all types.
- To implement adequate measures to prevent and control pandemic influenza and other infectious diseases.

Objectives:

- To increase awareness among ASEF countries and regions of the need to prepare for pandemics of all types.
- To facilitate the sharing of information among ASEF countries and regions on the preparation for pandemics of all types.

ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza

The ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza, which was launched on 25 May 2009, is a regional partnership of the ASEM countries.

ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza

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ASEF Calendar

**ASEM Calendar**

- **16-20 March 2010**
  - Brussels, Belgium
  - 4th ASEM Consultative Forum on Human Rights
  - Confirm with Ethical Committee of European Endocrinology Society

- **5-6 May 2010**
  - Berlin, Germany*
  - International Regulation (IGIR) of The University of Maastricht and Partners: ASEFUAN and The Institute for Globalization and Multilateral and Bilateral Issues*

- **9-10 May 2010**
  - Brussels, Belgium
  - 2nd ASEM Development Conference

- **18-20 May 2010**
  - Brussels, Belgium
  - ASEM Seminar on Credits and Learning Outcomes

- **23-24 May 2010**
  - Brussels, Belgium
  - ASEM Outlook Workshop

- **16-17 April 2010**
  - Berlin, Germany
  - ASEM Outlook Workshop (c/o ASEF)

- **15-16 April 2010**
  - Berlin, Germany
  - 6th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue

- **7-9 April 2010**
  - Brussels, Belgium
  - ASEM Forum 2010 on Green Growth and SMEs

- **5-6 May 2010**
  - Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  - ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

- **30 March 2010**
  - Brussels, Belgium
  - Asia-Europe Cooperation in the 21st Century

- **19 May 2010**
  - Ha Long, Vietnam
  - ASEM Workshop on "Coordinating Culture Activities for the Scenarios and Challenges for Europe and Asia"

- **17-18 April 2010**
  - Madrid, Spain
  - Culture Ministers Meeting

- **15-16 April 2010**
  - Berlin, Germany
  - 5th Asia-Europe Environment Forum Steering Committee's Meeting

- **26-27 April 2010**
  - Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam
  - ASEM Workshop on "Coordinating Culture Activities for the Scenarios and Challenges for Europe and Asia"

- **11-12 April 2010**
  - Amsterdam
  - ASEM Forum 2010 on Green Growth and SMEs

ASEF Network for Public Health

Globalisation, economic integration and demographic shifts have placed enormous demands on basic social services such as public health. A pandemic outbreak is a frightening prospect, given the current state of global epidemiology. Moreover, people’s lives in both regions have been affected by limited access to medical treatment for diseases.

To tackle the problems associated with emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, different sectors of society need to be involved in cooperation at national," regional, and international levels.
ASEF Network for Public Health Advisory Group Meeting

16 November 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The ASEF Network for Public Health held its 1st Advisory Group Meeting, in conjunction with the 3rd ASEAN + 3 Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme Coordination Group Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The meeting was attended by 12 representatives from eight key partner organisations, as well as two observers. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to consolidate and approve the cooperation framework for the Network. The Advisory Group members were actively engaged in a discussion to strengthen the partnership, and agreed on an Action Plan and timeframe for its implementation.

The 1st Advisory Group Meeting included the ASEAN Secretariat; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Nestlé; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); United Nations System Coordinating Committee for Migration (UNSCO); United Nations System Coordinating Committee for Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA); Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the European Commission; the Ministry of Health and Consumer DG, European Commission; and Prospex.

The main objectives of the session due to address were: the multi-hazard effects posed by pandemic and other large epidemic threats by promoting exchange of experiences among people from different sectors and regions; and the process of preparing and implementing pandemic preparedness for Asia and Europe. The Seminar provided a platform for presentations and interactive discussion, and the multi-sector approach was highlighted.

Participants of Advisory Group Meeting of ASEF Network for Public Health
FOCUS
(18-20 May 2010, Luxembourg)

Thematic Working Groups under the framework of the Network’s different 2010 Activities. This includes six events and a publication agreed on an Action Plan and timeframe for its implementation.

The meeting in KL brought together 12 representatives from eight key partner organisations, as well as two observers. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to consolidate and approve the cooperation framework for the Network. The Advisory Group members were actively engaged in a discussion to strengthen the partnership, and agreed on an Action Plan and timeframe for its implementation.

Thematic Working Group 1: Public Health

1st Advisory Group Meeting, in conjunction 16 November 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Thematic Working Group 2: Multi-Sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe

17 November 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The ASEF Network for Public Health Seminar on “Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe” was opened by Ambassador Dominique Girard (ASEF) and Mr. Takehiro Okubo (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) at the Press Conference.

Experiences from Asia and Europe” was organised on “Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe“.

The main objectives of the seminar due to address were: the multi-hazard effects posed by pandemic and large epidemic threats by promoting exchange of experiences among people from different sectors and regions; and the process of preparing and implementing pandemic preparedness for Asia and Europe.

For more information, please contact Ms Eliette Dupré Husser at eliette.dupre@asef.org

ASEFnews goes digital
From 1st July 2010, ASEF will be publishing a digital newsletter which will allow us to provide subscribers with updates on a quarterly basis. This initiative will merge two of ASEF’s current publications: ASEFalert and ASEFnews.

You may subscribe to the new digital newsletter and be the first to know about updates and opportunities to get involved in ASEF projects.

From now on, by visiting the ASEF website (www.asef.org) and clicking “SUBSCRIBE”, you will receive our digital newsletter, which will continue till May 2010.

Sign up today by visiting the ASEF website (www.asef.org) and click “SUBSCRIBE”.

To subscribe to the new digital newsletter, please visit the ASEF website (www.asef.org) and click on the “Subscribe” link.
Under the framework of the University for Youth and Development (UYD), and in partnership with the Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU), ASEF gathered together nine participants from Asia and eleven from Europe on an eight-day training programme.

It has emphasised the importance of the concept of “interconnectedness” in what youth organisations around the world carry out. This is reflected in some of the remarks of the participants such as:

“Working for my own country is not enough anymore. I have to think broader to regional and global level. I hope that I am useful for our network in the human rights field.”

“Now I have a different view of the general concept of Global Education (GE). Also my understanding is more in depth right now, because I have explored the main areas of GE. Furthermore, I related it with local issues.”

The aim of the activity was to develop the capacities of youth organisations in identifying and implementing GE methodologies in their activities. Dynamic workshops and consultations with the participants were done in helping them understand how to apply GE concepts in their local initiatives. There were also discussions on methods and good practices of GE.

The role of the youth leader in global youth work was also emphasized, along with the latter’s role in building civil society. Their competencies were improved to promote global citizenship and awareness in local activities, and the program also helped them identify partners to work with on GE activities especially on an Asia-Europe basis.

For more information, please contact Mr Joel Bassig at joel.bassig@asef.org

7th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium

Keeping the Faith: Reporting on Religion

21-22 September 2009

Seoul, Korea

The media has an inevitable influence in portraying the role of religion in society and consequently, on the way religious communities and actors are understood by global audiences. The media can thus be a potent force in challenging stereotypical perceptions and become instead a connecting channel for new ideas and perspectives. Through balanced news coverage, analysis and debate, media practitioners can play a positive role in ensuring that a broad diversity of voices are heard on potentially divisive issues. Communications solutions and strategic media impact also offer a compelling hand to the work of interfaith and faith-based organisations involved in peace-building efforts and the promotion of religious and cultural diversity. The long-term efforts of these organisations are essential in setting the foundations of interfaith understanding and cooperation, which can protect multi-cultural societies in times of inter-religious tension or conflict.

The two-day Colloquium brought together 17 leading media professionals and interfaith practitioners from Asia and Europe. They represented key stakeholders of the media-religion relationship. Focusing on the representation of religion in the media, the participants had the opportunity to increase understanding and respect of each other’s perspectives and professional approaches. The discussions explored the challenges of religious reporting in terms of balanced and quality coverage, and sought practical new ideas and best practices for media and interfaith practitioners to meet these challenges together.

The recommendations resulting from this dialogue were accepted by the 5th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue, which was held in Seoul on 23-25 September 2009.

For more information, please contact Ms Malgorzata Klimowicz at malgorzata.klimowicz@asef.org or Ms Qiuyi Tan at qiuyi.tan@asef.org
Thailand commissioned “Travel Green Thailand”, a guidebook that gives useful travel advice, as well as highlights the benefits of stronger EU-ASEAN cooperation in eco-tourism.

Richard Werly, author of “Travel Green Thailand” and Brussels bureau chief of the Swiss daily Le Temps, addressed an interested audience in Singapore about eco-tourism and its implications for ASEAN-EU cooperation, particularly in terms of the drive for sustainable development in Southeast Asia.

This public lecture was jointly organised by ASEF, the European Union Centre in Singapore, and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs. For more information, please contact Ms Grace Foo at grace.foo@asef.org.
Network on Human Security organised a Seoul, Korea 29-30 October 2009 from Asia and Europe” Human Security: Visions from Asia and Europe”.

ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning: Network 5 Workshop on Managing and Developing Core Competences in a Learning Society 28-30 October 2009 Seoul, Korea

The discussions in Seoul focused on the nature, operation and conceptualisation of human competences in a learning society. The researchers analysed the competences required for individual learners in the context of Asian and European learning societies with diverse approaches and perspectives. Furthermore, they proposed alternative ways of organising and restructuring school learning systems to respond to the future needs of the learning societies. The Network will undertake the following activities in 2010: • Publication of selected papers from the Workshop to be presented in the ASEM LLL Hub Conference in Autumn 2010; • Comparative research on mathematical and analytical competence; • Anthology of History of Competence Concepts; • Network meeting in March 2010 (Glasgow, United Kingdom)

Human Security: Visions from Asia and Europe”. The project was organised in partnership with the International Studies Department (UNESCO), Complutense University of Madrid, the Korean Association of Asia Studies with the support of the Korea Foundation. The two-day Conference brought together 15 Asian and European academic personalities and representatives of government institutions from ten ASEM countries. The Conference tackled migration theories and approaches as a consequence of population growth, poverty, and socio-political causes including forced migration induced by the economic crisis, global warming and climate change.

31st Asia-Europe Lecture Tour “The Establishment of an Ombudsman Institution” by Roel Fernhout 4-13 November 2009 Jakarta, Indonesia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Vientiane, Laos, Hanoi, Vietnam, Ulan Bator, Mongolia

Over 100 countries today have Ombudsman services at one or more levels of government. Yet, the Ombudsman is not widespread in Asia – only Hong Kong, Macao, South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan and Indonesia have Ombudsman institutions, though not all are members of the International Ombudsman Institute. Countries undergoing political transition in particular can benefit from the existence and activities of an Ombudsman institution, which can contribute significantly to the development of young – and sometimes vulnerable – democracies, and help build public confidence in the government.

16th Talks on the Hill: “The Common Denominator: Are there Universal Values for Interfaith Dialogue?” 7-9 November 2009 Barcelona, Spain

Can a set of common values bind people from different cultures in a way that could resolve, or offer more enlightened ways of interpreting and reacting to problematic differences? What would this catalogue of values look like? These were the core questions of a two-day dialogue retreat bringing together dual perspectives of education and interfaith experts from Asia and Europe.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish School University in Korea with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish School University in Korea with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish School University in Korea with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish School University in Korea with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish School University in Korea with the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish School University in Korea...
The ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) teamed up with one of Europe’s most prestigious political studies institutions, the Europe-Asia Campus of Sciences Po Paris in Le Havre, France, to organise its acclaimed Model ASEM Conference. Building up on the success from the 2008 edition organised in Beijing, the four-day political simulation of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) aimed to instil a greater understanding of the ASEM process, its structure and political dynamics.

The ASEFUAN Dialogues gave participants the opportunity to participants to engage in one-on-one discussions with senior figures from both Europe and Asia. The highlight of the event was an informal dialogue with Mr. Rémi Farmerier, founding member of Greenpeace, who called on participants to lead the new generation of environmentalists, referring to them as ‘Generation 2.0’.

Participants from India, Malaysia and Macau S.A.R. attend the interim methodology workshop at the ASEF conference room.

For more information about ASEFUAN, please visit www.asefuan.org or contact the ASEFUAN Executive Committee at exec@asefuan.org.
ASEM Education Hub Thematic Network

“Studies of Regionalism in the ASEAN Context”

7-8 December 2009
Singapore

The ASEM Education Hub (AEH) Thematic Network on Studies of Regionalism in ASEAN Context (RASEM) organised its Annual Conference on “Networked Regionalism versus Institutional Regionalism – Managing Complexities in Regional Cooperation and Global Governance” in Singapore. The Conference was organised in partnership with the European Union Centre in Singapore.

The Conference brought together about 50 scholars, academics, policy researchers and students from universities, research centres and think tanks from ASEM countries. They explored and debated on the different conceptions of regionalism. The conference participants examined networked regionalism’s usefulness in sketching the trajectory and contours of region-building in Asia in contrast to institutional regionalism in Europe and assessed its effectiveness in contributing to global governance.

During the Conference, case studies on how the EU and regional entities in Asia such as ASEAN,

ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN 4.1) tackle specific challenges in the areas of trade, environment and migration were presented. The Conference also discussed how an inter-regional framework such as ASEAN can facilitate and catalyse the development of regional frameworks to support the development of regions, regionalism and global governance.

The papers presented, as well as the recommendations from the conference will be published. For more information, please contact Ms NHu Quyenh Do at nhquyenh.do@asef.org

Connect2Culture

6-9 December 2009
Copenhagen, Denmark

An event under ASEP's Connect2Culture programme, the workshop on “Arts, Culture and Sustainability: Building Synergies between Asia and Europe” (6-7 December 2009) gathered 18 cultural experts and practitioners from 14 ASEM countries. The project discussed the potential role of culture and the arts in addressing today’s challenges of environment and sustainable development. The workshop was held in conjunction with the United Nations Climate Change Conference 15th Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP15).

During the workshop, the group pointed out that the arts and cultural sector can actually provide important creative inputs and alternative perspectives in the global dialogue process. The group also stressed the value of trans-disciplinary approaches in dealing with environment and sustainable development issues and hinted to the cultural sector’s ongoing involvement with such global concerns. The wide range of statements expressed by this ‘Vision Group’ have been published on ASEF’s Culture360.org website.

The 18 cultural experts of this ‘Vision Group’ also attended the Seminar on “Culture i Futures: The Transition to an Ecological Age 2050” (7-9 December 2009). The seminar brought together 90 specialists from different backgrounds and disciplines, such as environmental scientists, engineers and journalists, offering a unique opportunity to explore new forms of cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation, while acknowledging the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences in the global effort of achieving the ‘2050 Goals’.

“Culture i Futures” was organised in cooperation with the Danish Cultural Institute and the Khoj International Artists’ Association (New Delhi, India) with the financial support of the European Commission.

For more information, please contact Ms Anupama Sekhar at anupama.sekhar@asef.org

Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum)

“Institutional set-up of REDD and the involvement of the private sector”

An official COP15 side event
14-15 December 2009
Copenhagen, Denmark

An official United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 15th Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP15), COP15 side-event, the panel on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) was organised with the support of the Government of Slovenia. The panel featured a keynote address by the Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Dr Renate Christ, and leading representatives from international environment NGOs like the Asian Development Bank and Climate Focus.

With more than 100 key representatives from government agencies, official delegations and NGOs joining the discussions, the side-event facilitated timely reflections on the institutional design of a future REDD scheme that, in particular, gave voice to perspectives from Asia and Europe. In addition to information-sharing about the existing proposals and projects for REDD, the panel addressed questions about current barriers to the participation of the private sector in a future REDD scheme, offered ideas as to how these could be removed, as well as what the institutional set-up for the REDD under the UNFCCC could look like.

ASEF Executive Director Amb Dominique Girard also hosted an informal discussion for senior climate experts and selected members of COP15, which provided an excellent opportunity for open and frank discussion on issues on the institutional and political challenges of adopting comprehensive climate change policies.

Following the outcomes of the ENVForum COP15 side-event in Copenhagen, ASEF and the Hanns-Seidel Foundation organised a policy dialogue, “Outlook from Copenhagen – Next steps for Asia and Europe” in Brussels. The event, held on 17 December, provided an informative de-briefing about the UNFCCC negotiations prior to its conclusion.

ASEM Education Hub

4th Advisory Committee Meeting

15-17 December 2009
Dublin, Ireland

The ASEM Education Hub (AEH) organised its 4th Advisory Committee Meeting in cooperation with the Dublin Institute of Technology (DTI) in Dublin, Ireland. The meeting aimed at reviewing the AEH programme of activities in 2009 and outlining its strategy and work plan for 2010. The Meeting brought together 20 experts in higher education cooperation in ASEM countries, including five new member organisations, namely: Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Baltic University Programme (BUP), Southeast Asian Association for Institutional Research Conference (SEA-ARR), Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APEAE), and the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES). These new members are expected to boost wider participation and involvement of education stakeholders from both regions in the ASEM education dialogue, especially in creating a genuine dynamic between the ASEM Conference of Ministers for Education (governments) and the ASEM Rectors’ Conference (civil society stakeholders).

Mr Zhang Hongjie, Director of ASEP’s People-to-People Exchange Department and Director-in-Charge of the AEH had the opportunity to meet the Advisory Committee members for the first time. At the sidelines of the Meeting, a Partners’ Coordination Meeting was convened to initiate the preparations for the 2nd ASEM Rectors’ Conference to be hosted by Korea University. The Rectors’ Conference is scheduled to take place in November 2010.

For more information, please contact Ms Helen Chua at helen.chua@asef.org

Hosted by the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union, the dialogue also gave an outlook for Asia- Europe relations in the area of environment and sustainable development from 2012, when a new round of commitment must be put into effect.

With an audience of about 75 representatives from European institutions, think tanks and other Brussels-based organisations, the event highlighted the significance of partnerships between Asia and Europe in the area of climate change and sustainable development.

For more information, please contact Ms Gina Pulawska at grazyna.pulawska@asef.org
Asian Economic Community (AEC) News

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The EU through the Eyes of Asia Volume II: New Cases, New Findings

Martin Holland, &, Peter Ryan

Published by World Scientific

Publisher: World Scientific
Publication Date: November 2009
Pages: 270 (approx)

Publisher:
World Scientific

For more information, visit www.worldscibooks.com/eastasianstudies/7525.html

ESiA eMonitor

The October 2009 issue of the European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network’s bi-annual eMonitor features a report on the expansion of the “The EU through the Eyes of Asia” research project to include India, Macau SAR, and Malaysia. The eMonitor also features the announcement of the ESiA Young Academics fellowship winners and a feature on our new research partners in Malaysia, the Asia-Europe Institute – University of Malaya.

For more information or to subscribe to the e-newsletter, please visit http://esia.asef.org or contact Mr Ronan Lenihan at esia@asef.org

AEC-NET Newsletter

October 2009


For more information, please visit www.aec.asef.org or contact Ms Angie Toh at angietoh@asef.org

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Asia-Europe Journal:
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AEJ 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 studies framed from a European perspective and vice versa. If you would like to submit a paper, please send your submission in electronic form (Microsoft Word Document) to asea europejournal@asef.org

Papers should be written in English and be preceded by a short abstract. The submission should not exceed 6,000 words. Only previously unpublished manuscripts will be accepted for consideration. Upon publication, an honorarium of 300 Euros will be granted.

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For more information, visit http://www.worldscibooks.com/eastasianstudies/7525.html
IN THE NEWS

THE KOREA TIMES

ASEM Interfaith Dialogue Opens in Seoul

By Lee Hye-won
Staff Reporter

The 6th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) addressed religious and socio-political issues in its 6th Interfaith Dialogue.

Participants will seek solutions to regional economic crisis. They will also discuss

ASEM is an informal cooperative body to the 15 ASEM countries, an association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Interfaith Dialogue was held at the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

Subsequent gatherings have been held in South Korea.

South Korea will be stepping into the role as the Cultural Minister.

The 6th ASEM will be the first to be held in Seoul.

There will be discussions between the Social Cohesion: Overcoming Challenges in the 21st Century.

Interfaith Dialogue and Public Commentary

THE STRAITSG TIMES

Work out media-religion differences

September 25, 2019 Friday, 06:00 AM

Yen Fong sums up recommendations at this year’s Asef Journalists’ Colloquium in Seoul.

The dialogue between the two groups, at times serious and candid, but more often heart-felt, was organized and sponsored by Singapore’s Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEf), an inter-cultural relations group.

Previously, it was attended only by journalists; this year, the group invited for first time to the colloquium religious leaders, to discuss the challenges of religious reporting in the two regions.

The meeting was also attended by academics in media and religion. Altogether, 17 representatives from 15 countries, including your correspondent from Singapore, participated in the event.

BIBC

Can religion help the economic crisis?

By Christopher Landau

BIBC religious affairs correspondent, Seoul

The world of economics and religion may seem far apart, but a meeting in South Korea has been attempting to narrow the gap between the two.

The Vatican sent a representative to the meeting.

Religious and political leaders gathered in Seoul for a conference on interfaith cooperation.

They concluded their three-day meeting with a call for religious perspectives to be taken into account by governments tackling issues like the financial crisis.

This unusual gathering brought diplomats and heads of religious groups around the same table. The Vatican representative was next to a Muslim leader, alongside delegations from nations across Europe and Asia.

And as countries look for the role of religions in addressing the world’s economic, political and social challenges, the conference stressed that social cohesion can be enhanced through interfaith dialogue.

Crisis about morality

The Foundations Bulletin

Newsletter of the UN Alliance of Civilizations International Network of Foundations

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IN SEOUL

The 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Interfaith Dialogue was held on September 23-25, 2019, in Seoul on the theme ‘Building Bridges through Interfaith Dialogue.’

The dialogue focused on how to overcome current challenges and to enhance understanding and respect among ASEM partners, including 27 European Union states and 5 Asian nations.

Professor Vassilios Mantikos is the Director of the Center for Multicultural Studies at Darmstadt University, and has participated in the event since its launch in 2009.

— (Continued on page 25)

UNIVERSITETET I ODOS

Wayana Dyrekorea Generaung Fundacie Aja - Europa (ASAF)

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The ASEF Network for Public Health Advisory Group Meeting 14 November 2009 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The ASEF Network for Public Health held its 1st Advisory Group Meeting, in conjunction with the 3rd ASEAN + 3 Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme Coordination Group Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Participants of the meeting included representatives from eight key partner organisations, as well as two observers. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to consolidate and approve the cooperation framework for the Network. The Advisory Group members were actively engaged in a discussion to strengthen the partnership, and agreed on an Action Plan and timeframe for 2010. This includes six events and a publication agreed on an Action Plan and timeframe for

Thematic Working Groups.

under the framework of the Network's different 2010 Activities of the ASEF Network for

Thematic Working Group 1: Infectious Diseases

Thematic Working Group 2: Regional Pandemic and Influenza Resilience

Thematic Working Group 3: Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe

29 June-10 July, Lodz, Poland

The main objectives of the seminar, due to address the multi-sectoral aspects posed by pandemic and large-scale disasters, were to promote a network of experiences among peoples from different sectors and regions as one means of reducing the number of fatalities in the event of a large epidemic threat. This was done through presentations and discussions.

The multi-sectoral approach towards pandemic preparedness, the panelists gave presentations and participated in discussions about multi-sector involvement in coping with pandemic impacts.
Participants of Advisory Group Meeting of ASEF Network for Public Health

FOCUS

(18-20 May 2010, Luxembourg)

Thematic Working Groups.

under the framework of the Network’s different 2010. This includes six events and a publication agreed on an Action Plan and timeframe for discussion to strengthen the partnership, and Group members were actively engaged in a framework for the Network. The Advisory to consolidate and approve the cooperation of the main objectives of the meeting was

China; 28-30 September 2010, France)

Siem Reap, Cambodia; 21-23 June, Shanghai, Pandemic Planning and Response Thematic Working Group 2: Multi-Sector

Infectious Diseases

Regional Integration and

Thematic Working Group 1: Public Health

2010 Activities of the ASEF Network for

organisations, as well as two observers. One representatives from eight key partner

The meeting in KL brought together 12

Diseases Programme Coordination Group

with the 3rd ASEAN + 3 Emerging Infectious

1st Advisory Group Meeting, in conjunction

Public Health Advisory

ASEF Network for

Pacific Regional Office (WHO-WPRO); UN

of the World Health Organisation – Western

Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) on behalf for Migration (IOM); United Nations System

Societies (IFRC); International Organization

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Foreign Affairs of Japan; Nestlé; International

the European Commission; the Ministry of

Group Meeting included the ASEAN Secretariat; Participating organisations during the Advisory

ASEF Network for Public Health Seminar – Public health and vulnerable groups

17 November 2009

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ASEF Network for Public Health Seminar – Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe

17 November 2009

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The ASEF Network for Public Health Seminar on “Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe” was organised on “Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness: Experiences from Asia and Europe” was organised

Mr. Gunawan Husin, Head of Business Continuity Management Southeast Asia, Royal Bank of Scotland plc, answering a question from the audience at the seminar

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Sign up today by visiting the ASEF website www.asef.org and click “SUBSCRIBE”. For more information on the seminar, please visit

For more information, please contact Ms Kristine Lucero at kristine.lucero@asef.org For more information, please contact Ms Eliette Dupré Husser at eliette.dupre@asef.org

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BULLETIN

ASEFnews goes digital

From 1st July 2010, ASEF will be publishing a digital newsletter which will be free and available to subscribers via email on a quarterly basis.

This initiative will merge two of ASEF’s current publications – ASEFnews and ASEFalert. This issue of ASEFnews will be the last to be printed. ASEFalert, ASEF’s bi-monthly electronic newsletter will continue till May 2010.

You may subscribe to the new digital newsletter via the ASEF website or sign up to receive updates and opportunities to get involved in future projects by sending a short email to the ASEF website at info@asef.org

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Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – UN agencies – International Organisations.

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### ASEM Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>18-20 Feb 2010</td>
<td>Asia-Europe Workshop on Public Health Network (TWG 2)</td>
<td>Siem Reap, Cambodia</td>
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<td>12 Jan 2010</td>
<td>Asia-Europe Workshop on Public Health Network (TWG 2)</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5-6 May 2010</td>
<td>ASEM Forum 2010 on Green Growth and SMEs</td>
<td>Seoul, Korea</td>
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<td>30 May-1 June 2010</td>
<td>ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
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<td>25-26 May 2010</td>
<td>ASEM Seminar for Visibility of Cultural Activities</td>
<td>Yogyakarta, Indonesia</td>
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### ASEM News

**ASEM Network for Public Health**

Globalisation, economic integration and demographic shifts have placed enormous demands on basic social services such as public health. A pandemic outbreak is a frightening prospect, given the current state of global interconnectedness. Moreover, people in developing regions have been affected by limited access to medical treatment for diseases.

To tackle the problems associated with emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, different sectors need to be involved in cooperation at local, national, regional and international levels.

### Asia-Europe Environment Forum

ASEM is initiating a preparatory event for a seminar on ‘Property Rights and the Environment’. The event aims to address the following key issues:

- **Evaluation of ASEM’s Environment Strategy**
- **Analysis of the implementation of the ASEM Initiative on Environment**
- **Role of ASEAN and Asia-Europe in global efforts to save the environment**
- **Proposed next steps for the implementation of the ASEM Initiative on Environment**

The preparatory event will be held in the framework of the ASEM Initiative For The Rapid Containment Of Pandemic Influenza. It will take place on 24-25 June 2010 in Tokyo, Japan.
ASEF Calendar

18-20 February 2010
Committee Meeting

5-7 January 2010
ASEM Education Hub

29 June-10 July 2010
ASEM Initiative

In this issue

ASEF's response to \textit{Institute of English Technology Monitoring}

ASEF Education Hub Meeting

ASEM Initiative Seminar on \textit{Pandemic Influenza and Health Security}

ASEM Initiative Seminar on \textit{Institutional set-up of REDD and forest governance}

ASEM Initiative Seminar on \textit{Multi-sectoral Public Health and Security}

ASEF Network for Public Health

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ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza

The ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza (2009-2013) is a project, launched at the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Hanoi in May 2009, for the provision of anti-viral education and training as well as technical advisory of WHO-WPR to the region.

ASEM leaders had emphasised the need to promote global health security by expressing their determination to combat global health threats such as H1N1, avian influenza and a possible human pandemic, tuberculosis and malaria.

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