



## Youth trainers from Asia and Europe developing best practices on intercultural learning

PRESS RELEASE No. 070522\_PR0705

*Monday 21<sup>th</sup> May, Singapore* - Intercultural Learning is a key element to promote and deepen mutual understanding and appreciation between Asia and Europe. The **Asia-Europe Training for Trainers (AE Tft)** that will take place **from 25 to 31 May 2007 in Manila, the Philippines** will address the most pressing need of youth organisations – intercultural learning. Built around the notion of cultural diversity, trainers from the ASEM countries\* are brought together to broaden their knowledge through the exchanges of best practices on intercultural learning.

“This year’s training in the Philippines will provide an innovative approach for the development of intercultural capacities beyond stereotypes and prejudices”, - expressed Ramon Molina, Director of People-to-People Exchange Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

The 30 participants of this AE Tft will include motivated youth field workers, youth organisation leaders, trainers or organisers in the area of youth, capacity building and non-formal education, nominated by national and international organisations and networks from the ASEM countries.

The Asia-Europe Foundation aims to build on the training expertise of long-standing Asian and European youth organisations in order to allow for a beneficial exchange of practice and peer-to-peer training. The Asia-Europe series of trainings aim at the creation of an Asia-Europe platform for the joint development of the Asia-Europe co-operation in the field of youth trainings related to non-formal education, as well as to contribute to the efforts to establish an Asia Europe Pool of trainers. The establishment of a stable co-operation in the field of trainings and capacity-building for youth organisations represents a significant part of ASEF’s efforts to foster intercultural dialogue among future opinion-shapers.

This Training for Trainers is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Philippines National Youth Commission (NYC), in close co-operation with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE).

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The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** seeks to promote better mutual understanding and closer cooperation between the people of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of ASEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focussed on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations.

Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEF reports to a board of governors representing the ASEM partners. ASEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. Having completed over 310 projects, involving over 13,500 individuals ('ASEF Alumni'), ASEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries. <http://www.asef.org>

\* **The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Myanmar, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, and the European Commission. From 2007, ASEM includes Bulgaria, Romania, India, Pakistan, Mongolia, and ASEAN Secretariat.