



Too Many Foreigners?
Crises and their Impact on Migration Flow
Book Presentation cum Panel Discussion

11 October 2011 | Singapore

Welcome Remarks

Ambassador Michel Filhol

Executive Director
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Good afternoon Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very pleased to welcome you today to the Asia-Europe Foundation. Some of you are old friends from my previous posting in Singapore while others, I am meeting for the first time. I am therefore happy to have this occasion to meet you.

- ASEF hosts today, jointly with the Embassy of Spain, Professor Antonio Marquina's book presentation. Professor Marquina has worked with ASEF on the [ASEM Education Hub Thematic Network on Human Security](#).
- As many of you know, ASEF was set up in 1997 by the participating governments of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Today there are 48 partners in ASEM—46 countries plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.
- ASEM is an inter-regional process which gathers government leaders and officials of partner countries to strengthen region-to-region ties through informal dialogue and cooperation efforts under 3 pillars – i.e. the political, economic & socio-cultural dimensions.
- At ASEF, we have the mandate from ASEM to promote mutual understanding and collaboration between Asia and Europe. To this end, ASEF has worked towards engaging governments and civil society. We have experience in setting up multi-stakeholder partnerships, bringing together people from very different nationalities, experiences and backgrounds in dialogue.
- Since inception, ASEF has worked with government and civil society partners, and engaged over 15,000 participants directly in over 500 projects. ASEF continually aligns its programmes with ASEM priorities.

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- The publication we are presenting today is the third work in a series by Asian and European scholars. The first two publications were on [energy security](#) and [global warming](#).

- Today's topic on migration is important. In many countries, it is also a sensitive issue. With another global economic crisis looming, today's panelists will examine this topic in a highly relevant context.
- I am confident you will find today's discussion stimulating, informative and useful.
- We wish to thank the Embassy of Spain, our partner in organizing this event, and of course, Professor Marquina, as well as our distinguished panel members who have agreed to debate this issue here today.

And now, it is my pleasure to invite Ambassador Federico Palomera to give his remarks.

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