

MEDIA RELEASE

Asian Students top first Asia-Europe Young Artists Painting Competition

Art students from China, the Philippines and Indonesia won the top 3 prizes in the first Asia-Europe Young Artists' Painting Competition. The competition was organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in celebration of the 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) taking place in Seoul in October later this year.

First (S\$ 10,000) : Mr Ye Zhenghua, *The leaving dreams* (China)
Second (S\$5,000) : Mr Kent S. Mendoza, *It's all in our hands* (Philippines)
Third (S\$ 2,000) : Ms Indra Widiyanto, *Waiting for the death* (Indonesia)

The award ceremony will be held in October in Seoul, where the 3 winning entries and the other 22 paintings, which made it to the final shortlist, will be exhibited. All 25 students will be invited to the exhibition opening and award ceremony.

A total of 167 entries from 15 countries were received. The artists, who had to be full-time art students aged between 18 and 35 years, were asked to submit their interpretation of "The Millennium in My Dreams."

The "Asia-Europe" panel of judges from China, France, Germany, Singapore and Thailand based their decisions on the criteria of artistic technique, relevance to competition theme and authenticity of interpretation.

One of the judges, Professor Dr Manfred Schneckenburger (Rector, Academy of Fine Arts, Muenster, Germany) commented: "In general, the paintings tended to reflect more fears than hope for the new millennium. But since time immemorial, artists have tended to prefer to paint about the dark side of life; we seem to see paradise as boring!"

Mr Ong Kim Seng, Singaporean artist on the panel, commended the organisers, "I think competitions like this are important because they help to promote artistic awareness between young people."

In organising this competition, ASEF would like to acknowledge the support of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, the National Arts Council of Singapore, and the sponsors European Commission, Lee Foundation and the Asia-Pacific Breweries Foundation.

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Asia-Europe Foundation seeks to promote better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.