



## The Asia-Europe Foundation Launches Asia-Europe's Comics Project

30 July-11 Aug 2006

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### Twelve comic artists meet in Singapore to spin a tale about migration

Singapore – Twelve comic artists will meet in Singapore from 30 July to 11 August to work collectively on a script that will illustrate the issues and experiences surrounding “migration” across communities. Following this twelve-day meeting in Singapore, and with the use of the website as a virtual platform, the team will continue to work collectively to arrive at final artwork which will be compiled into a comics publication scheduled for launch at the end of this year.

**The Asia-Europe Foundation** is employing this vehicle to encourage direct encounters and collaboration between creators who are inspired to use their medium to contribute to cross-cultural understanding, the social betterment of ordinary people in their communities and the furtherance of Asia-Europe ties. The Asia-Europe Comics Project aims to enhance the network of Asian and European creators, artists, writers and commentators engaged in the comics genre with a view to building up Asia-Europe co-operation and partnership at the people level.

Pam Hu, Director of Community and International Relations, **Media Development Authority** (MDA), said, “MDA commends Asia-Europe Foundation’s efforts in fostering inter-cultural understanding through the use of evergreen favourites like comics. We are pleased to extend our support for this innovative project as part of our initiative to engage and inspire Singaporeans to discover the possibilities of media for work, learning and play. Aspiring comic artists and fans certainly will be able to learn from these gurus and enjoy their work. This initiative paves the way for more international collaboration with Asian and European countries at the forefront of media development.”

The meeting will be led by **Mr Johnny Lau**, better known as “Mr Kiasu” for his widely-circulated comic series in Singapore. The visiting artists will have the opportunity to experience Singapore - the global migrant country. The programme involves other visual storytellers who have worked on the theme of migration, currently one of the most dynamic socio-political trends affecting all societies. **Mr Eric Khoo**, a renowned Singapore filmmaker, will be presenting to the team his experiences of Singapore. **Prof. Shyam Tekwani** will discuss migration from the viewpoint of his vast experience and travels as an international photojournalist.

The team comprises NIX (Belgium) who doubles up as the European resource person, Mr Tomas Kucerovsky (Czech Republic), Mr Frederic Felder (France), Mr Tommi Musturi (Finland), Ms Maaïke Hartjes (Netherlands), Mr Rafal Gosieniecki (Poland), Mr Craig Au Yeung (China), Mr Al Fitri Muhammad Zachky (Indonesia), Mr Kwon Yong Duk (Korea), Ms Lyra Garcellano (Philippines), Mr Le Phuong (Vietnam), and “Little Fish” (Japan). They have been selected based on their personal motivation and the relevance of their portfolios. They bring with them a combination of strong artistic competence, original inspirations and strong commitment to using the medium of comics for educational purposes.

The meeting in Singapore will be followed by an exhibition held at the National Library Board. The progress of the project will also be updated on a daily basis at:

<http://comix.asef.org>, including reports of the discussions, images and excerpts from the workshop in web-cast form.

You are invited to a **press conference, 31.07.2006 at 3.30pm at Gallery Hotel** to meet with the resource persons and the team of comic artists. For further information, please contact:

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The Asia-Europe Comics Project is an initiative of the Asia-Europe Foundation in partnership with the National Library Board (Singapore) and The Gallery Hotel, with the support of The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs (Belgium), The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Czech Republic), Royal Netherlands Embassy, Media Development Authority (Singapore), Furryfish and Zocard.



**Asia-Europe Foundation** | The Asia-Europe-Foundation seeks to promote better mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges whose purpose is to multiply knowledge about Asia-Europe Cooperation. This project is a new initiative by the Public Affairs Department. For further information on Asia-Europe Foundation, please visit our website: <http://www.asef.org>

GALLERYHOTEL

**Gallery Hotel** | The Hotel that Inspires, is Singapore's first hip hotel. This arts-centric hotel features distinctive and award-winning post-modern architecture and colourful interiors. The creative environment inspires you to enjoy the ease and excitement of a truly designer hotel. Gallery Hotel is located at the trendy Robertson Quay and Mohamed Sultan entertainment district, perched on the bank of the famous Singapore River – a delightful waterfront experience. <http://www.galleryhotel.com.sg>



**National Library Board** | Established on 1 September 1995, the National Library Board's mission is to provide a trusted, accessible and globally-connected library and information service so as to promote a knowledgeable and engaged society. NLB oversees the management of the National Library, including the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, three regional libraries, 19 community libraries, 18 community children's libraries, as well as over 30 libraries belonging to government agencies, schools and private institutions. Through its innovative use of technology and collaboration with strategic partners, NLB ensures that library users have access to a rich array of information services and resources that are convenient, accessible and useful. More information on NLB can be found on [www.nlb.gov.sg](http://www.nlb.gov.sg)



**Media Development Authority of Singapore** | The Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA) was formed on 1 January 2003 to champion Media 21, a blueprint to transform Singapore into a global media city. Media 21 seeks to create a vibrant media environment by establishing Singapore as a media exchange, exporting Made-by-Singapore content, internationalising local media companies, nurturing local media talent and developing digital media. More information on MDA can be found on [www.mda.gov.sg](http://www.mda.gov.sg)