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Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers at the SM Mall of Asia

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Twenty-one young photographers from Europe and Asia recently showcased their photo stories on *Urban Youth* in a special presentation at the SM Mall of Asia.

A joint project of the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**, the World Press Photo Foundation (WPPF), and the Philippine Center of Journalism (PFC) and the Mall of Asia, the event was the culmination of the two and a half day Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2006 held in Manila. This is the third such forum, the others previously organized in Amsterdam in 2003 and Hanoi in 2004.

The participating photographers, as well as their tutors were present during the event. The latter included some of the world's top photo journalists: Magdalena Herrera from France, National Geographic Magazine's Art Photography Head; Hans Jurgen from Germany's Stern and Geo Magazines; and the Philippines' Romeo Gacad of Agence France-Presse; and Alex Baluyut of Raw File Images.

Other guests present included Evelyn Kunst of the World Press Photo Foundation, Vanini Belarmino of the Asia-Europe Foundation, and the Philippine Center for Photojournalism chairperson Dennis Sabangan and board member and project director Jimmy Domingo. The Mall of Asia's regional mall manager Steven Tan gave the opening remarks during the event.

The 150 images on *Urban Youth* were both moving and powerful. Each of the twenty-one participants were given assignments during the workshop, and each photo story was shown in a huge screen in the mall's second level.

Some photo stories depicted diverse young lives in Manila: *Young Worker in the Mall* by Indonesia's Donang Wahyu; *Mary Joy* by Lithuania's Valdas Kopustas; *Mika 17* by the Netherlands' Anais Lopez; *Young Activist* by the Philippines' Ruel Bimuyag; and *Fisher Folks* by Slovakia's Martin Kleihl.

Others showed the exuberance and energy of youth: *Punks Dehns Ded* by Malaysia's Kamal Sellehudin; *R x R* by the Philippines' Buck Harold Pago; *Dancers* by Spain's Eliza Gonzales; *Ice Skating Rink* by Thailand's Siripong Kanjanabut and Vietnam's Hoang Minh Tri; and *Athletics* by the United Kingdom's James Barr.

Other works revealed strong social commentary: *Payatas* by Belgium's Joachim de Wilde; *Care for the Earth* by Cambodia's Rattana Vandy the *Power of God* by China's Liu Keh; *The Big Family* by Denmark's Mads Nissen; *Guns and Roses* by Estonia's Liis Treiman; *A Search for Life in the Garbage* by Korea's Nasha Lee; and *Lonely Planet* by Japan's Naoko Kawamura.

Some messages were both personal and powerful: *Inherited Loneliness* by Poland's Honorata Karapuda; *The Broken Rose* by Portugal's Gustavo Machado; and the *Last Nurse* by Singapore's Lim Siao Lao.