



PRESS RELEASE

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Asia-Europe Dialogue on Arts, Culture and Climate Change

The Asia-Europe Dialogue on Arts, Culture & Climate Change aims to examine creative cross disciplinary and intercultural linkages in the dialogue and actions related to climate change. In this search for creative solutions in sustainable development, the dialogue will bring together a unique gathering of 50 participants from diverse backgrounds – artists, designers, architects, cultural practitioners, environmentalists and scientists.

The Dialogue seeks to strengthen the role and the voice of culture and arts in the dialogue on and actions related to climate change and explore creative cross disciplinary and cross cultural connections. The project expects to shift discussions on climate change from a mere scientific or policy discourse to one which involves an artistic and cultural perspective on looking for sustainable solutions to the issue. Consequently, the dialogue aims to raise awareness on climate change and sustainable development in the cultural and arts communities in Asia and Europe.

From 9th to 12th October 2008, the three-day dialogue process will explore the intersection between culture and its influence on the discourse of climate change (please refer to project brief for the programme). Recognising that language is key to intercultural dialogue, an “English-Chinese Art and Climate Change Vocabulary Booklet” was developed for use during the dialogue. The booklet illustrates the nuances of perspectives shaped by language and culture, serving as a source of inspiration and reference in this dialogue.

This project is one of five projects in support of the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM7) to be held in Beijing, China. The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) works in partnership with the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) and the Danish Cultural Institute (DCI) and with Cultura21, Research Center for Sustainable Development of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and National Climate Change Center, China as associate partners.

For more information on the project, please visit www.culture360.org/artandclimatechange

You are invited to the public event:

Dialogue on Arts, Culture and Climate Change

Public Forum

Friday, 10th October 2008 at 9:00 AM

Central Academy of Fine Arts

No. 8 Hua Jia Di Nan St., Chao Yang District 100102 Beijing

No registration – Free admission

09.00 Official Opening Ceremony

Opening speech by Amb. Lu Yong Shou, ASEF Governor to China

Short speech by Prof. Tan Ping, CAFA Vice-President

Short speech by Eric Messerschmidt, DCI Director

Introduction by Jean Anes, ASEF Cultural Exchange Department Director

10.0 Conference Session 1 - Climate: Perceptions and perspectives

How do we perceive climate and its changes from a social and artistic perspective?

Moderated by Olaf Gerlach (Denmark)

Speakers:

Julien Knebusch (Germany) on “Art and Climate (Change) Perception: outline of a phenomenology of Climate’

Zhu Qing Sheng (China) on “The relationship between man & nature in contemporary art”

Shanta Singh (India)

13.30 Exchange Session

Participants Exchange with CAFA students, residence artists and ASEF alumni artists

14.15 Conference Session 2 – Climate Change: facts, impact and actions (brought in relation to basic needs)

Moderated by Marco Gemmer (Germany)

Speakers:

Prof. Klaus Fraedrich (Germany) on “Climate change facts”

Lu Xi Xi (Singapore) & Jiang Tong (China) on “Impact on climate change”

Dr Piotr Matczak (Poland) on “About actions”

**15.30 Conference Session 3 – Climate for Change: Sustainable and Creative Solutions
Food, Shelter, Mobility and Clothing - How does climate change affect our basic needs and which sustainable solutions are we looking for?**

Moderated by Sacha Kagan (France)

Short presentations and debate:

Carole Collet (UK) on “Textile Futures”

Shirley Soh (Singapore) on “Food & art’

Toshiro Ikegami (Japan) on “Sustainability and cities”

David Haley (UK) on “The art of becoming, questions of climate change, ecology and mobility”

17.30 Conclusions

By Tapio Makela (Finland) and Shanta Singh (India)

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Dialogue on Art and Culture & Climate Change is a collaboration of:



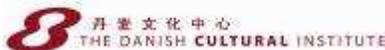
The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major 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. Since 1997, the Foundation has initiated projects engaging 14,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. 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. www.asef.org

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



The **Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA)** located in Beijing is a leading institution for modern art education in China, the only art academy of higher learning directly under the Ministry of Education, and was founded in April 1950 by incorporating the National Beijing Art College and the Fine Arts Department of Huabei University. The Director of CAFA's Executive Committee is Yang Li, the President of CAFA is Professor Pan Gongkai, a Chinese painting artist and art historian. The Director of CAFA's Academic Board is Professor Jin Shangyi, a well-known Chinese artist. Under the umbrella of CAFA, there are six schools and one college: the School of Fine Art, School of Chinese Painting, School of Design, School of Architecture, School of Humanities, College of City Design as well as School of Continuing Education and the Affiliated High School of Fine Art. www.cafa.edu.cn



The **Danish Cultural Institute** is a non-governmental organization that works with international cultural exchange in a wide range of areas. It promotes cultural exchanges between Danish and Chinese parties and informs about Denmark. It also supports projects that aim at long-term cooperation between Chinese and Danish cultural institutions, artists and other professionals in the field of creative industries and economies. Established in 2005, the Danish Cultural Institute in Beijing was licensed to work with cultural exchange and consultancy, and puts priority on topics which expose Denmark as an innovative and cutting edge nation with a cultural approach funded on encounter and respect. The activities of The Danish Cultural Institute in Beijing range from exhibitions of fine arts to exchange programs for professionals from sectors such as public education and health services. www.danishculture.cn/en

Associated Partners:



The **Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)** is a Ministerial-level institution mandated to undertake policy and academic oriented research and advice in the area of social sciences and humanities, officially known as the think tank of the Chinese government.

The Research Centre for Sustainable Development (RCSD), one of the research centres under the CASS umbrella, was established in 1997 in response to the need in China for its pursuit to sustainable development, specialising policy related research mainly at national and international levels, providing policy input and advice to the central government through academic and policy related and case specific research activities. In 2005, the Centre was merged with the CASS Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, bringing in expertise in urban issues. Key areas of research of RCSD include: (1) Economics of Sustainable Development, focusing mainly on economic theory and methodologies for analyses of sustainable development, capabilities and their assessment of sustainable development, strategic and policy analyses of sustainable development. (2) Global Environmental Change and Economic Development, covering issues related to impacts, vulnerability, adaptation to, and mitigation of climate change and its linkages to sustainable development, energy-economy-environment systems and climate change policy, international institutions and global environmental governance, and comparative analyses of sustainable development. (3) Regional and Experimental Studies on Sustainable Development, including applied economic analyses of sustainable development through examination of cases at county, city, watershed and/or enterprise level. (4) Urban studies, including urban planning, urban economy, urban environment infrastructure and other related areas. www.cass.net.cn



The **China Meteorological Administration (CMA)** is a Ministerial-level institution under the Chinese State Council. The National Climate Center (NCC) was established in 1995 as a priority program of the Chinese Agenda 21 and is operating under the CMA. It addresses the needs of national economic growth in the changing international climate environment. The NCC operates the Meteorological Service, the official climate modeling and climate research for China. It provides policy advice on climate, climate change and its effects.

Climate change is one of the central problems in terms of living conditions and the national sustainable development. Therefore, CMA has launched the **National Center on Climate Change (NCCC)** in summer 2008. The Center will further improve climate change science and technology, professional and service levels, and play a more active role of CMA's reply to climate change in China. At the same time, it will work together with relevant departments from home and abroad, and also strengthen the decision-making and public service functions of climate change. www.cma.gov.cn



Cultura21 stands for Cultures of Sustainability, allowing human social systems to evolve in harmony with one another and with their environment. Cultura21 retains a wide, anthropological definition of culture and thus has a wide range of interests, among which: the arts, inter-culturality, the media, education and other cultural expressions (such as e.g. agriculture and food). The International Network, created in 2007 builds upon the existing national organization Cultura21 in Germany (created in 2005), and fosters the rise of trans-local initiatives and further national networks (in Italy and in Mexico in 2007, Denmark-Sweden-Norway in preparation). www.cultura21.net

With the support of:



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