



## Connect2Culture

# Asia-Europe Dialogue on Arts, Culture & Climate Change

9-12 October 2008  
Beijing, China

*In conjunction with the ASEM7 SUMMIT*

## Brief

### Introduction

Climate change, sustainability and environment are among the most pressing global issues of concern. They are on the top of the agenda in global international relations, and are becoming the forefront topics of dialogue in Asia-Europe relations. Yet, the debate so far has been dominated by politicians and scientists.

The awareness of climate change and what it really means for an ordinary person is still rather vague. For most of us Climate change is an abstract concept. How do we translate factual information on climate change into actual (emotional) experiences? How can arts & culture offer new ways to understand this new reality?

Art can be an effective means of creating awareness among people about climate change and the environment, especially in a multi-disciplinary setting. Aware of this, the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** will be conducting the **Asia-Europe Dialogue on Arts, Culture & Climate Change** in **Beijing, China** from **9-12 October 2008**.

The **Dialogue on Art, Culture & Climate Change** is an investigation into the role of culture and the arts in the cross-cultural dialogue on climate change between and in Asia and Europe. The Dialogue aims to raise the awareness on climate change and sustainability in cultural and arts communities in Asia and Europe and at investigating different perspectives on this subject. It also seeks to strengthen the role and the voice of culture and arts in the dialogue on and actions related to climate change. Furthermore, it aims to explore creative cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural connections between artists, scientists, and other climate change thinkers leading to joint approaches and collaborations for climate change actions

The project will gather 50 Asian and European artists, designers, architects, cultural practitioners, environmentalists and scientists to participate during the three-day workshop, and is organised in partnership with the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, the China Academy of Social Sciences and the Danish Cultural Institute. It shall also be held in Copenhagen in December 2009 alongside the Climate Change Summit.

The project is under ASEF's newly initiated programme called **Connect2Culture**, which focuses on the connections between arts & culture and important global issues. **Connect2Culture** is a platform for reinforcing connections between young artists, information platforms and policy through online and offline interdisciplinary collaborative projects. The process and results of the collaborations are shown on the Culture360 Website ([www.culture360.org](http://www.culture360.org)) and at conferences or events related to the subject.

## **Programme:**

### **Pre-Project Phase:**

- **Project blog.** A project blog is in the make where participants can post ideas and discuss on the topics of the Forum.
- **Student projects at the CAFA.** The students of the Experimental Art Department of the Chinese Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) are working on the subject of environment and climate change during the month of September. They will share their ideas/concepts/artworks with the participants during the Public Forum.
- **Artistic residency in Beijing.** An eco-art/action philosophy residency will be set up with the CAFA prior to the Forum where Oleg Koefoed (Denmark) and Insa Winkler (Germany) will work together with 10 design students of CAFA from 4<sup>th</sup> October till 8<sup>th</sup> October. The group will approach important and complex matters related to climate change, environment and sustainability, from a specific angle. The results of the residency will be shared in the Dialogue Forum.
- **Artistic statements by ASEF Alumni.** ASEF has launched an open call to ASEF alumni artists to submit artistic statements and artwork related to the theme: 'climate change, a climate for change?' Two artists Petko Dourmana (Bulgaria) and Andreas Siagan (Indonesia) have been selected and are invited to participate in the Beijing event where their artworks are shown and discussed in the Forum.
- **Art & Climate Change English-Chinese vocabulary booklet.** An Art & Climate English-Chinese vocabulary booklet has been produced by designer Roman Wilhelm (Germany) and by designer Chen Chen (CAFA) in cooperation with an editorial team. The booklet will be used as notebook during the meeting and aims at creating cross-disciplinary cultural awareness.

### **Project Proper:**

Between 10-12 October, a series of open debates, artistic presentations and workshops will be set up in CAFA and other venues in cooperation with the partners and associated partners.

The debates on October 10<sup>th</sup> will discuss from an Asian and European perspective our understanding about climate and environment and how we relate to it. The different aspects of climate change will be discussed with scientists, as will be the cultural dimension of climate change. Artists will present how they respond to this issue and how they have conceptualised work around the phenomenon of climate change. The need for change and how artists and scientists look for change and creative sustainable solutions

across disciplines and sectors will be discussed from the perspective of ‘food, shelter, mobility and clothing’.

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October, intensive interactive workshops will be held to look deeper into the topics and discuss potential connections and strands to engage in the topic and effectuate change. The group will also look into suggestions how artists, scientists and climate change thinkers in Asia and Europe can play a further role in the dialogue and concrete projects on this topic and how ideas can be generated towards an Asia-Europe project in Copenhagen in 2009. The programme will be facilitated by experienced facilitators Maggie Buxton (UK/NZ) and Angela Liong (Singapore)

On 13<sup>th</sup> October an optional activity is planned to visit a carbon offset programme or an environmental initiative locally in Beijing (to be confirmed)

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **10 October ‘INFORM’ – Public Forum**

Venue: Central Academy of Fine Arts | 8 Hua Jia Di Nan St., Chao Yang District, 100102 Beijing  
*No registration – Free admission; Programme with simultaneous translation*

#### **09.00 Official Opening Ceremony**

Opening speech by Amb. Lu Yong Shou, ASEF Governor to China  
Short speech by Prof. Tan Ping, Vice President, China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA)  
Short speech by Eric Messerschmidt, Director, Danish Cultural Institute (DCI)  
Introduction to ASEF and to project by Jean Anes, Cultural Exchange Director, ASEF

#### **10.0 Conference Session 1 - Climate: Perceptions and perspectives**

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

Moderator: Olaf Gerlach (Denmark)

Speakers:

Julien Knebusch (Germany) ‘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)

Moderated Q & A session

#### **12.00 Lunch**

#### **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)**

Moderator: Marco Gemmer (Germany)

Speakers:

About climate change facts: Prof. Klaus Fraedrich (Germany)  
About impact on climate change: Lu Xi Xi (Singapore) & Jiang Tong (China)  
About actions: Dr Piotr Matczak (Poland)

Moderated Q & A session (15 min)

**15.20 Tea break**

**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?**

Moderator: Sacha Kagan (France)

Short presentations:

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”

Moderated Q & A session (30 min)

**17.30 Conclusions**

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

**18.00 End of day with an artistic intervention—launch party for the Logo of National Center of Climate Change China (tbc)**

**19.00 Joint dinner with core group**

**11 October ‘EXCHANGE’**

Venue: Cave @ 798 factory

9.30 Icebreaker & introductions

10.00 Formal introductions and introduction to key issues

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Workshops related to food, shelter, transport & clothing (world cafe technique)

18.00 Feedback session of workshop/ sharing

20.00 Joint Dinner

**12 October ‘IMAGINE’**

Venue: Cave @ 798 factory

9.30 Ice breaker

10.00 Working groups and action based sessions (open space technique)

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Future scenario planning and next steps – synthesis of themes

18.00 Conclusions

20.00 Joint Dinner

**13 October ‘ACT’ *Optional day***

10.00 Activity related to carbon offset or environmental initiative

17.00 Debriefing and feedback

19.00 Joint dinner & Good Bye

**Programme Contact (ASEF):** Ms. Katelijn Verstraete, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)  
31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595  
Tel: +65 6874 9724 | Fax: +65 6872 1207 | Email: [katelijn.verstraete@asef.org](mailto:katelijn.verstraete@asef.org)

**Programme Contact (CAFA):** Ms. Xu Jia, China Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA)  
Address: No.8 Hua Jia Di Nan St., Chao Yang District, Beijing, P. R. China, Zip: 100102  
Tel: +86 10 6477 1018 | Fax: +86 10 6477 1136 | Email: [xujia@cafa.edu.cn](mailto:xujia@cafa.edu.cn)

**Programme Contact (DCI):** Ms. Pei Yan, Danish Cultural Institute (DCI)  
Yang Guang Shang Dong Area 2, Building 5-3 102 6, Dongsihuan Beilu 100016 Beijing  
Tel: +86 10 5130 7192 | Fax: +86 10 5130 7193 | Email: [py@danishculture.cn](mailto:py@danishculture.cn)

**Media Contact:** Ms. Soh Lai Yee, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) | 31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace | Singapore 119595  
Tel: +65 6874 9729 | Fax: +65 6872 1206 | Email: [laiyee@asef.org](mailto:laiyee@asef.org)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 founded 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cultura21.net)

With the support of:



ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Commission

\* \* \* \* \*