

Outline

Introduction

The media has an inevitable influence in portraying the role of religion in society and consequently, on the way that religious communities and actors are understood by global audiences. The 8th ASEF Journalists' Colloquium will bring together young journalists and young religious leaders from Asia and Europe to re-examine the role of the media in reporting on religion. Thus, this Colloquium will enable the young journalists to acquire more in-depth knowledge on religious and interfaith issues, which is essential at an early stage of their professional career.

Participation

Young journalists and young religious leaders

Facilitator

Assoc Prof Dr Cherian George
Head, Division of Journalism and Publishing, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Speaker

Dr Anies Baswedan
Rector and President, Paramadina University, Indonesia

Outcomes

- Recommendations to the 6th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue, which will be held in Madrid/Toledo (7-9 April)
- Articles on the topics discussed which can be published by the media represented at the Colloquium

Guiding Principles

The objective of the Colloquium is to have open and candid discussions on the given subject. We wish to promote mutual understanding among media practitioners from Asia and Europe.

The main sessions will be held as closed-door proceedings, where participants may speak their minds freely as individuals and without wearing an official hat. To facilitate a frank discussion, **Chatham House rules apply**. We have invited you through a selection process. We value your views and want you to participate actively, and to speak up freely.

Programme – 8th ASEF Journalists' Colloquium

Monday, 5 April 2010

14:30 – 16:00	Welcome Lunch Venue: La Ancha , Calle Zorilla 7 <i>Please assemble at the hotel lobby at 14:10</i>
16:00 – 16:45	SESSION ONE <u>I. Background and Overview of Objectives</u> The lack of trust between media and religious leaders, insensitivities, gaps in knowledge were identified by participants of past ASEF journalists' colloquia on interfaith dialogue as the main barriers towards promoting such dialogue. To remove stereotypes and prejudices, there was a need for a better understanding between journalists and religious leaders on the type of education and training that was necessary for the young at the start of their respective professional careers. This Colloquium will aim at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bringing together young journalists and religious leaders to discuss the key topics related to reporting on religion▪ Increasing awareness of the religious leaders and journalists of the need to improve coverage of religious and interfaith affairs▪ Establishing future directions for media organisations and religious leaders to promote interfaith dialogue▪ Producing recommendations to be presented at the 6th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue
16:45 – 18:00	<u>II. Examining the current state of preparation for bridging the religion-media divide</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Are current definitions of newsworthiness obstacles to meaningful coverage of religion and interfaith issues?▪ Are there any gaps in the media education in Asia and Europe? Do journalists have enough opportunities to deepen their knowledge of religion at schools and/or on the job in newsrooms? What are the opportunities to learn more about media for religious practitioners?▪ What are the biggest obstacles in improving the current state of education and literacy for journalists and religious practitioners?▪ Can we learn from each other, comparing the situation in both regions?▪ Correct terminology vs. commonly used terminology
18:00 – 18:15	Coffee Break

18:15 – 19:00	<u>III. Wrap up of Session One discussion</u>
19:30	Tapas Venue: El Mercado de la Reina , Calle Gran Via 12 <i>Please assemble at the hotel lobby at 19:15</i>

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

10:00 – 10:30	SESSION TWO <u>I. Recap and Overview</u>
10:30 – 12:30	<u>II. Increasing media literacy for religious leaders and religious knowledge for media</u> Breakout sessions: Participants are divided into two groups. Group A focuses on increasing media literacy for religious practitioners while Group B focuses on improving religious knowledge for the media. They may address some key observations and questions raised in past colloquia. Group A: Media Literacy Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Them and Us”: Identifying problem areas caused by the lack of knowledge of media on the part of religious leaders in Asia and Europe ▪ “PR for religion?”: Do religious leaders and communities require training or consultancy for their public image? ▪ “Resources and opportunities”: Are there ready toolkits for use? If so, how can they be made more available to those who have no access yet to them? ▪ “Training and education programmes”: Can religious leaders be trained in media and communications skills? Practical recommendations. Group B: Religious Knowledge Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should news values be modified to promote interfaith understanding? Are professional norms of coverage of such issues inadequate? ▪ Should journalism schools provide a basic course on world religions and interfaith dialogue? Do these schools provide sufficient resources for students to learn how to cover conflict situations with religious overtones?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there a need to revise existing terminology that is controversial and establish a new, more accurate and sensitive one for use by the media? ▪ Are existing toolkits adequate? If not, how should they be improved and disseminated? ▪ Is on-the-job training at media organisations today a good way to give journalists more in-depth knowledge of religious issues and communities? If not, what should be done? If yes, how to popularise and conduct them more systematically?
12:30 – 13:00	Coffee break
13:00 – 14:00	III. Regroup to discuss each group’s findings
14:30 – 16:00	Lunch Venue: Marina Ventura , Calle Ventura de la Vega 13 Group photo
16:00 – 18:00	SESSION THREE Action planning including practical ideas and recommendations for the 6th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue
18:00 – 19:30	Conclusion Guest Speaker: Dr Anies Baswedan, Rector and President, Paramadina University “What place for religious values in the secular public sphere?” Q&A Session
22:00	Closing Dinner Venue: Kitchen Stories , Cuchilleros 3 <i>Please assemble at the hotel lobby at 21.30</i>

End of the Colloquium¹

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¹ Participants who wish to attend the 6th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue as members of the ASEF delegation are welcome to do so.