



8th ASEF Public Forum on
Creative Cities in Asia and Europe

CITIES: LIVING LABS FOR CULTURE?

24 November 2015
Gwangju, Republic of Korea
Asian Culture Center

In conjunction with the 2015 Asia Culture Forum
<http://tinyurl.com/ASEFPublicForum8>

Cities of today are becoming vibrant spaces for experimentation, a process in which culture has come to occupy a central place. “Creative cities” and “capitals of culture” that have emerged across Asia and Europe attest to growing importance of these dynamic new centres of arts and creativity. Cities are also emerging as epicentres for effective policymaking, as they are often able to act quickly and offer more integrated responses. As Charles LANDRY, the well-known authority on the use of imagination and creativity in urban change, has argued: “*Cities are laboratories to tackle difficult solutions. They have the critical mass to scale up new technologies.*”¹ In this context, the 8th ASEF Public Forum will debate whether cities in Asia and Europe are indeed evolving into living labs for culture.

The topic of creative cities is of particular relevance for the bi-regional dialogue between Asia and Europe, and is high on the cultural agenda of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)². At the [6th Asia-Europe Culture Ministers’ Meeting](#) (ASEM CMM6, Rotterdam, 2014), Ministers acknowledged that “(re)developing cities is one of the pressing questions”³ facing Asia and Europe and stressed the importance of inclusive governance and people-centred policies in “*delivering enabling conditions for creativity to flourish*”.⁴ They also highlighted the need for “*effective mechanisms for the co-creation of knowledge and exchange of best practices*”⁵ on the topic of creative cities, which the 8th ASEF Public Forum hopes to facilitate.

Gwangju Metropolitan City offers itself as the perfect backdrop for this Forum, considering its role as the Hub City of Asian Culture, the home of the new Asian Culture Center and a newly-designated city of media arts in UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network. The Hub City of Asian Culture, the single largest cultural project in the history of the country, aims to establish a platform in Gwangju for cultural exchange among Asian countries. The Asian Culture Center, the main facility of Gwangju as the Hub

¹ Landry C., (2014), *Creative Cities and Sustainability* in [Enabling Crossovers: Good Practices in the Creative Industries](#), ASEF

² ASEM brings together 53 members: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Viet Nam plus the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union.

³ [Chair’s Statement](#), 6th ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting (ASEM CMM6, 2014), p.5

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [Chair’s Statement](#), 6th ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting (ASEM CMM6, 2014), p.6

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City of Asian Culture, is constructed on and around the site of the former Office of Jeollanamdo Province, a historically important area in this city known for its spirit of democracy, human rights and peace.

The Forum in Gwangju will mark the launch of *Cities: Living Labs for Culture? – Case Studies from Asia and Europe*, a compilation of essays and case studies as well as *Creative Responses to Sustainability (Korea Guide)*, which maps cultural initiatives across the country engaging with social and environmental issues. Both publications will be available for free download on ASEF's arts and culture portal, culture360.asef.org and on ASEF website asef.org

The 8th ASEF Public Forum is part of a long-running dialogue series on cultural policy issues of common interest and mutual relevance for Asia and Europe. Past forums have taken place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands ([2014](#), [2010](#)), [Hanoi, Viet Nam](#) (2013), [Yangon, Myanmar](#) (2013), [Yogyakarta, Indonesia](#) (2012), [Melbourne, Australia](#) (2011) and [Seoul, Korea](#) (2011).

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

1:30-1:40 pm	Setting the stage for the Forum
1:40-2:30 pm	<p>Culture and policymaking in the city: how to make culture accessible to all? <i>Over the past decade, policy makers and urban planners have turned to culture and the arts to stimulate local economies and transform cities into ecosystems for people to live, work and develop imaginatively. This begs the question: how important is the role of culture in designing city-planning and urban development strategies? In this context, the dialogue between policymakers, local authorities and practitioners is also of critical importance, in order to better address the needs of the public, of artists, and arts organisations. What are the challenges in creating an adaptive and responsive policy environment?</i></p> <p>Panellists: Mr Ridwan KAMIL, Mayor of Bandung, Indonesia Ms Catherine CULLEN, Chair, Committee on Culture - United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Discussants: Mr Martin VENZKY-STALLING, Representative of Creative Chiang Mai & South East Asian Creative City Network (SEACCN) & Ms Yasmine OSTENDORF, Author, <i>Creative Responses to Sustainability (Korea Guide)</i></p> <p>Followed by Q&A with audience</p>

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2:30-3:20 pm	<p>The Capital of Culture model: a catalyst for the cultural development in the city? <i>By placing creativity and culture at centre stage in the context of city development, the “Capital of Culture” model has emerged. In Europe, the Capital of Culture initiative has been around in one form or another since 1985. From Athens to Paris, Krakow to Riga, and Vilnius to Mons, over 50 cities have been designated as European Capitals of Culture so far. A similar movement seems to be developing in Asia, with initiatives such as the ASEAN City of Culture (launched in 2010 by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations/ASEAN) and East Asia Cities of Culture (launched in 2012 by the Japan-China-South Korea Cultural Ministerial Meeting process). What has been the impact of these initiatives? Does the “Capital of Culture” process offer a viable model and can it really bring about a change in city positioning and act as a catalyst for cultural development?</i></p> <p>Panellists: Dr Karsten XUEREB, Executive Director, Valletta 2018 Foundation, Malta Mr Yusaku IMAMURA, Director, Tokyo Wonder Site, Japan Discussants: Ms Hanna JEDRAS, Chief Expert, Responsible for European Capital of Culture 2016 Wroclaw, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland</p> <p>Followed by Q&A with audience</p>
3:20-3:40 pm	Coffee break
3:40-4:30 pm	<p>What role for cultural institutions in shaping creative cities? <i>With cities today being looked at as places of pride and development, attention has been particularly growing towards developing distinct identity markers that would differentiate one place from another. Here, the place and role of cultural institutions in shaping creative cities has come to be vigorously debated. An emerging trend has seen cities looking at alternative ways to bring culture closer to people, relying on a network of small infrastructures and urban/natural spaces (parks etc.). At the same time, other cities have made the choice to initiate large-scale “cultural hub” projects or to build up massive cultural infrastructure. Do these two models have different impacts on creativity and access to culture? To what extent do cultural quarters or hubs allow human interaction or artistic fertilisation? Do we need massive cultural infrastructure to bring culture to the cities? What are some of the most interesting examples of interconnected “hardware” and “software” that have produced the best results in Asian and European cities?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Jae-Han RYU, Chairperson of Executive Committee, Asia Culture Forum, Korea</p> <p>Panellist: Mr Joe SIDEK, Artistic Director, Georgetown Festival, Malaysia</p> <p>Discussant: Ms Fionnuala CROKE, Director, Chester Beatty Library, Ireland</p> <p>Followed by Q&A with audience</p>

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<p>4:30-5:30 pm</p>	<p>Cities: leadership and creativity incubators? <i>Arts and culture leaders are the driving force supporting the rise and development of creative cities. How can cities offer a conducive environment to identify and nurture these leaders? What skills and resources do arts and culture leaders need to be good leaders in today's complex environment? Initiatives have emerged to answer these needs, such as the Salzburg Global Seminar or the Cultural Leadership Advanced Programme from the University of Hong Kong. What are some of the most innovative local, regional and international initiatives supporting emerging leaders in the arts? What are some of the gaps that remain to be addressed in this landscape?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Susanna SEIDL-FOX, Program Director – Culture and the Arts, Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria</p> <p>Panellists: Ms Arundhati GHOSH, Director, India Foundation for the Arts Ms Fionnuala CROKE, Director, Chester Beatty Library, Ireland Mr Phloeum PRIM, Executive Director, Cambodian Living Arts</p> <p>Followed by Q&A with audience</p>
<p>5:30-5:40 pm</p>	<p>Summary and concluding remarks</p>

Rapporteur: Mr Daniel HO Sheng
Social media co ordinator: Mr Piero ZILIO

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