



Culture: a catalyst for sustainable development of Asian and European cities

International civil society experts from Asia and Europe emphasised the role of creativity and the arts as catalysts for innovation in cities.

Press Release

For Immediate Release

24 November 2015
Singapore

Media Contact

Rafael SECADES (Mr)
Senior Deputy Director
Public Affairs

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
E rafael.secades@asef.org
T +82 010 2119 0300
www.asef.org

More Information

<http://tinyurl.com/ASEFPublicForum8>
#ASEFforum8

Cities are increasingly acting as catalysts for culture-led urban development in Asia and Europe. Through people-centred policies, inclusive governance and speedy decision-making, cities are proving to be innovative hubs for creativity.

This message was at the core of the findings that emerged from the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) [8th Public Forum on Creative Cities in Asia and Europe - Cities: Living Labs for Culture?](#) held on 24 November 2015 in Gwangju, Korea, at the [Asia Culture Center](#), the single largest cultural project in the history of Korea.

Over 15 experts from about 13 Asian and European countries gathered in Gwangju for this bi-regional dialogue and exchange. The participants included representatives of governmental bodies, researchers, and international civil society organisations, such as Google Cultural Institute and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

At the Official Opening, Mr Mun in, Vice-Mayor of Gwangju city, Korea, announced that "the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting will be held in 2016 in Gwangju. We believe that this forum will support the success of 2016 ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting".

ASEF Executive Director, Ambassador Zhang YANG, highlighted on his speech that "cities are evolving fast as epicenters for effective policymaking, as they are often able to act quickly and offer more integrated responses. In light of these crucial debates on the future of cities, it becomes very important to exchange ideas and share good practices from across Asia and Europe."

The publication, ***Cities: Living Labs for Culture? - Case Studies from Asia and Europe*** (2015, ASEF) was launched at the forum. It presents 27 case studies and 5 essays, which draw upon the experiences of 40 cities.

The report of the meeting will be widely disseminated in January 2016. Key messages from the forum will be presented at the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM7) in 2016 in Korea, organised in the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

The **8th ASEF Public Forum on Creative Cities in Asia and Europe - Cities: Living Labs for Culture?** was co-organised by ASEF in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea; Gwangju Metropolitan City; the Asia Culture Forum; and the Asia Culture Center among others.

For more information, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/ASEFPublicForum8>



About the Organiser



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Together with about 750 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 700 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 20,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org

Partners



The **Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism** of Korea works to make happy life through arts and culture. The vision of the Ministry is to establish a brand as a cultural country and to strengthen innovative capacity for cultural contents. It also wants citizens to enjoy culture in the daily life through diverse cultural spaces and content.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mcst.go.kr>



Home to the Asia Culture Center, **Gwangju Metropolitan City** is developing into a place for the convergence, integration and re-creation of tangible and intangible heritage in Asia as a national project. The Gwangju Biennale is held every two years and Gwangju Metropolitan City proudly became a new member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network's media arts sector in 2014. The ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting and the FINA World Aquatics Championship are slated for 2016 and 2019, respectively.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mcst.go.kr>



The **Asia Culture Forum** is where diverse Asian cultural discourses are formed and exchanged under the slogan "Solidarity of Diversity." Launched in 2006, the forum holds an annual conference with participation by renowned international figures. Participants share the latest information and issues on culture and arts, and discuss mutual cooperation in urban cultural development.

For more information, please visit <http://www.asiacultureforum.kr>

Supporters

