

ASEF 15th Anniversary
PANEL DISCUSSION
16 May 2012
Singapore

ASIA and EUROPE: COMING TOGETHER or DRIFTING APART?



Asia and Europe: Coming Together or Drifting Apart

Wednesday 16 May

Timing: 17.30 – 19.15

Venue: Grand Ball Room, Grand Park City Hall Hotel
10 Coleman Street, Singapore 179809

Synopsis

Current reports and views in the international media on Asia-Europe relations are predominantly focussed on the Eurozone's present debt difficulties and the potential adverse impact on Asia. While some European voices have expressed hope that Asians would mobilise to buoy them up, the Asian response has been reserved so far.

The ASEF 15th Anniversary Panel will present insights from ASEF's on-going perceptions research and valuable commentary on the current state of Asia –Europe relations, as well as perspectives on what paths lie ahead. The event will feature experts from the fields of business and political affairs to provide analysis and identify the key points of engagement for Asia and Europe. The occasion aims to offer an insightful and frank debate on the state of Asia-Europe relations and the prospects for future convergence or a gradual drift apart.

Organised on the occasion of the 28th ASEF Board of Governors' Meeting in Singapore, the discussion will also benefit from the perspectives and experiences from ASEF's Governors, representing the 48 ASEM members.

Programme Details

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| 17.30 | Welcome Remarks by Ambassador Soemadi Brotodiningrat
ASEF Governor for Indonesia and Chairman of the Board of Governors 2012 |
| 17.35 | Keynote Speech by Guest-of-Honour Professor Tommy Koh
Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore |
| 17.50 | Perspectives from Panellists

Professor Martin Holland
Director, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury

Professor Arnoud De Meyer
President, Singapore Management University (SMU)

Professor Simon Tay
Chairman, Singapore Institute for International Affairs (SIIA) |
| 18.25 | Debate involving ASEF Governors, Key Speakers and Participants |
| 19.10 | Closing Remarks by Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele
ASEF Governor for Belgium and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors 2012 |
| 19.15 | End of the Panel and Start of the Reception |

About the Speakers



Professor Tommy Koh

Professor Koh is currently Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Special Adviser of the Institute of Policy Studies and Chairman of the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. He is the Chairman of the SymAsia Foundation of Credit Suisse. He is also the Rector of Tembusu College at the University Town of the National University of Singapore.



Ambassador Soemadi Brotodiningrat

Ambassador Brotodiningrat is currently the ASEF Governor for Indonesia and Chairman of the ASEF Board of Governors 2012. Prior to his current position, he was Ambassador of Indonesia to the United States, and Ambassador to Japan. He has also served as Director General for Foreign Economic Relations with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Indonesia, and was Permanent Representative to the United Nations, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization, and other international organisations in Geneva, Switzerland.



Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele

Ambassador Van Remoortele is currently the Ambassador of Belgium to Singapore and ASEF Governor for Belgium. He is also the Vice Chairman of the ASEF Board of Governors 2012. Before this, he held the posts of Director of Personnel, Inspector-General of Diplomatic and Consular Posts, and Director of European Affairs in the Belgian Foreign Ministry. He was also Ambassador to Malaysia and the Philippines, and has taken on embassy postings in Beijing and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Ambassador Karel Kovanda

Ambassador Kovanda is currently the ASEF Governor for the European Union (EU). Prior to this position, he served as Deputy Director General of External Relations in the European Commission from 2005-2010. Prior to joining the European Commission, Ambassador Kovanda was a senior diplomat in the Czech Foreign Service. He served as his country's ambassador to NATO and the UN, including heading the Czech Delegation during its non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council.



Professor Martin Holland

Professor Holland holds a Jean Monnet Chair (*ad personam*), and is Director of the National Centre for Research on Europe in New Zealand. Professor Holland is internationally recognised for his work on EU Development policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy and on the Perceptions of the EU, especially within the Asia Pacific region.



Professor Arnoud De Meyer

Professor De Meyer was associated for 23 years with INSEAD as a professor and as Dean for the MBA programme, Executive Education and the Euro Asia Centre. He was also the founding Dean of INSEAD's Asia Campus in Singapore. Then he was appointed Director (Dean) of Cambridge Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge from 2006 to 2010. Professor De Meyer took on the role as the President of Singapore Management University.



Professor Simon Tay

Professor Tay He is currently Associate Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore, Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (a non-governmental think tank) and Senior Consultant at the Wong Partnership, a Singapore law firm. From 2002 to 2008, Tay chaired the National Environment Agency of Singapore, the country's main agency for environmental protection and public health.



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (www.aseminfoboard.org). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 550 projects, engaging over 17,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe.



This year marks the 15th anniversary of ASEF. A time to look back and cherish the successful outcomes of that cooperation between countries and regions. At the same time to celebrate the spirit of sharing and setting common goals for a future together.

To commemorate 15 years of bridging people between Asia and Europe, a number of special projects and events will be organised throughout the year. So come and join us!

www.asef.org