



Creative Cities: promoting culture-led socio-economic development

International civil society experts will gather at the 8th ASEF Public Forum on Creative Cities in Asia and Europe: "Cities: Living Labs for Culture?" on 24 November 2015 in Gwangju, Korea to discuss how cities are harnessing the power of creativity for urban change through inclusive governance strategies.

Press Release

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More Information

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



The forum will take place at the newly-inaugurated Asia Culture Center, the single largest cultural project in the history of Korea. Given their potential for effective policy-making, integrated responses and vibrant experimentation, cities in Asia and Europe present themselves as promising venues for culture-led socio-economic growth.

H.E. Jong-deok KIM, Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea, and host of the upcoming 7th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM7), and H.E. YOON Janghyun, Mayor of Gwangju, will open the forum.

This forum will provide an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and good practices on people-centered policies, arts leadership and innovative models of culture capitals and cultural institutions from Asia and Europe. Speakers include, among others, Ms Catherine CULLEN, Chair, United Cities and Local Governments' (UCLG)-Committee on Culture; Ms Arundhati GHOSH, Director, India Foundation for the Arts; Mr Joe SIDEK, Artistic Director, George Town Festival, Malaysia; and Mr Karsten XUEREB, Executive Director, Valletta 2018 Foundation.

Key messages from the forum will be presented at ASEM CMM7 in 2016 in Korea, organised in the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)¹. *"The growing importance of culture and creativity in urban planning has gained the attention of Asian and European Culture Ministers and is now a priority on the cultural agenda of ASEM,"* says Ambassador ZHANG Yan, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

The **8th ASEF Public Forum** is 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. The entire proceedings will be open to the media and other interested parties on a pre-registration basis.

For more information please visit <http://tinyurl.com/ASEFforum8>

¹ The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 53 members (21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Union).

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

