Asian and European volunteers to assess the impact of international volunteer service

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is bringing together 18 young volunteers from the both regions to evaluate and measure the voluntary service impact from personal to community development. Organised by ASEF in partnership with Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), the 9th Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE) will take place from 10 August to 7 September 2010 in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, and 11 other countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

The participants will receive an intensive training on learning dynamics of Asia-Europe intercultural projects and the volunteers’ contribution to the local community. Afterwards they will travel to 11 different ASEM countries for three weeks to assess the impact of international volunteer service on the volunteers as well as the beneficiaries. They will meet again in Ha Long Bay to compare and evaluate their findings.

In 2001, which was acknowledged as the International Year of Volunteering by the UN, ASEF and CCIVS organised their first Asia-Europe Young Volunteer Exchange. According to the UN Secretary General, International Voluntary Service “helps to widen social, economic and cultural networks, enhances self-esteem, meets the need of people to learn from each other and facilitates acquisition of skills and experience thus widening employment options”.

ASEF has since been more involved in future international voluntary service initiatives. ASEF and CCIVS have jointly organised eight editions of the AEYVE since 1997. This year’s edition is looking forward to the future and back to the past. In view of celebrations of the UN International Year of Volunteers +10 and the European Year of Volunteering in 2011, the participants will jointly evaluate international volunteering over the past 10 years.

Programme contact:
Rob van Leeuwen (Mr), Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
T. +65 6874 9714 | F. +65 6872 1207 | E-mail: rob.vanleeuwen@asef.org
Francesco Volpini (Mr), Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)
T. +33 1 45 6849 36 | F. +33 1 42 73 05 21 | E-mail: secretariat@ccivs.org

Media contact:
Małgorzata Klimowicz (Ms), Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
T. +65 6874 9747 | E-mail: malgorzata.klimowicz@asef.org
About the Organisers:

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 (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 43 member states (Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org

Founded in 1948, CCIVS is a co-ordinating body for international voluntary service organisations counting more than 250 member associations in 96 countries, including 5 international networks and several regional structures and platforms. It acts as a link to establish relations between the members and international institutions such as the EU, different UN agencies or foundations. CCIVS fosters the development of regional networks through the organisation of international projects and seminars and the production of publications and training tools.

CCIVS maintains formal relations of association with UNESCO and the Secretariat is based in the NGO building at UNESCO headquarters. CCIVS is also a member of the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the Joint Programmatic Commission on Youth at UNESCO. CCIVS was involved in the foundation of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and is actively implicated in the consultation process led by the UNV for the celebration of the International Year of Volunteers +10. In the past CCIVS has also been elected in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe and has a consultative status with ECOSOC and UN DPI/NGO. www.ccivs.org