



Arts, Culture and Sustainability: Building Synergies between Asia and Europe

6 & 7 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

Culture | Futures: The Transition to an Ecological Age 2050

7-9 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

Alongside UNFCCC COP15

1 December 2009

Media Background Brief

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is organising a workshop and a conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, to explore the role of the cultural sector in dialogue and collective action on environmental issues. These meetings are part of a three-year programme engaging the cultural sector in a process of reflection on the environmental challenges of our times. As preparatory work for these events, 18 Asian and European cultural experts were invited to contribute to a vision statement, which would then become the basis for the discussions and help fashion a message for the COP15 (15th Conference of Parties) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Please see Annex 1 for a list of these cultural experts contributing to the discussion paper.*

On 6 and 7 December 2009, the workshop ***Arts, Culture and Sustainability: Building Synergies between Asia and Europe***, will gather these 18 contributors in Copenhagen to reflect on their vision for environmental sustainability, and to address the challenges and opportunities for cultural collaboration on this specific issue.

From 7 to 9 December 2009, at the ***Culture | Futures: The Transition to an Ecological Age 2050***, these cultural experts will explore the role of the cultural sector in enabling ecological solutions by 2050 by exchanging ideas with their counterparts from the field of environment as well as other sectors (such as engineering, media etc.). The conference will be opened by Ambassador Dominique Girard, Executive Director of ASEF, and Mr Finn Andersen, President of EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture). *Please refer to the programme for further details.*

The two events are being organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation in collaboration with other leading cultural organisations. Main partners for the events are the Danish Cultural Institute and Khoj International Artists' Association (New Delhi, India). Supporting organisations include the Danish Arts Agency; European Union National Institutes for Culture; International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies; Cultura 21; Cambridge Sustainable City Programme; Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts (UK), British Council; Goethe Institute; Italian Cultural Institute; Arts Council England; Arup and Trivium Aps.

Wider Circles of Engagement

During both events, six experts from the culture and environment sectors - Howard Chan (Community Museum Project, Hong Kong); Ravi Agarwal (Toxiclink, India); Constantin Petcou and Doina Petrescu (Atelier d'architecture Autogéréé, France/Romania); Rosa Casado (artist, Spain); and, Maja Hawlina (Poper, Slovenia) - will keep the international audience updated through the Culture360 virtual platform (<http://connect2culture.blogs.culture360.org>).

Connect2Culture

The workshop and conference are part of ASEF's Connect2Culture programme - a three-year programme that explores the connections between arts, culture and environmental issues - launched in conjunction with the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit of Heads of State and Government (Beijing, 2008). The programme will eventually lead to a conference and policy inputs in preparation for the 8th ASEM Summit of Heads of State and Government (Brussels, Oct 2010).

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Main partners of the above-mentioned events:



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. Since then, ASEF has implemented over 350 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

The Asia-Europe Meeting (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), the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org



The Danish Cultural Institute promotes cultural exchanges and informs about Denmark and supports projects that aim at long-term cooperation between foreign and Danish cultural institutions, artists and other professionals. The Danish Cultural Institute is an independent institution, which receives a yearly government grant through the Danish Ministry of Culture. <http://www.dankultur.dk/>



KHOJ International Artists' Association is an artist-led, alternative space for experimentation and international exchange based in India. Part of the global Triangle Arts Trust, KHOJ sees its role as an incubator for art and ideas, artistic exchange and dialogue in the visual arts. Through its programming, KHOJ aims to assist and develop forms of art such as media art, performance, video, environmental, public and community based art, sound and other experimental modes of cultural production.



ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Commission. The views expressed herein are in no way taken to reflect the official opinion or position of the European Commission, the Asia-Europe Foundation or ASEF's partner organisations.

Annex 1: Contributors to the Discussion Paper

From Asia (in alphabetical order):

1. **Yusaku Imamura** (Japan)
Director, Tokyo Wonder Site
Counselor on Special Issue to the Governor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
2. **Dr. Singh Intrachooto** (Thailand)
Head, Building Innovation and Technology Program, Department of Architecture,
Kasetsart University
3. **Marco Kusumawijaya** (Indonesia)
Chair and Director of Jakarta Arts Council
4. **Ong Keng Sen** (Singapore)
Founder and Artistic Director, TheatreWorks
5. **Pooja Sood** (India)
Artistic Director of Khoj International Artists' Association
6. **Shiv Visvanathan** (India)
Professor, Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology
7. **Ada Wong** (Hong Kong)
Chief Executive, Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture
8. **Maria-Rosalie Zerrudo** (Philippines)
Creative Director, Enigmata Creative Circle

From Europe (in alphabetical order):

9. **Trevor Davies** (Denmark/UK)
Director, Copenhagen International Theatre (KIT)
10. **Mary Ann DeVlieg** (Belgium/Italy)
Secretary General, International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM)
11. **Nik Gaffney** (Belgium)
Founding member and media and systems researcher, FOAM
12. **Guy Gypens** (Belgium)
Artistic Director, Kaaitheater
13. **Sacha Kagan** (Germany)
Research Associate, Leuphana University
14. **Tea Makipaa** (Finland)
Visual Artist
15. **Lidia Makowska** (Poland)
Activist and Cultural Scientist
16. **Marko Pelihan** (Slovenia)
Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies: Art, Science, Technology, Performance,
Digital Media and Space Art, University of California, Santa Barbara
17. **Dr. Bernd M. Scherer** (Germany)
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18. **Rosina Gomez-Baeza Tinturé** (Spain)
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