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Press Release

For Immediate Release

1 November 2018
Singapore

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More Information

<http://asef.org/projects/themes/culture/4598-asef-unplugged-australia>

ASEF facilitates Australia and Southeast Asia Engagement

As part of the Borak Arts Series alongside the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) hosts a conversation exploring trends and opportunities between Australia and Southeast Asia.

On 1 November from 2pm, ASEF Director for Culture, Ms Anupama SEKHAR, hosts a conversation at the [Adelaide Festival Centre](#) with cultural professionals from Australia and Southeast Asia.

The intimate event questions the current state of Australia-Southeast Asia cultural relations, particularly on international collaborations, what influences artists, networks and arts organisations and how to build long-term alliances based on trust, reciprocity and fair exchange.

This collaboration with the [Borak Art Series](#), alongside the [OzAsia Festival](#), is part of [ASEF Unplugged](#), a new event series focusing on informal peer-to-peer conversations on arts, culture and heritage. It responds to the growing demand from conference audiences for more interactive formats that allow for greater engagement of participants beyond being mere receivers of information.

In partnership with OzAsia, ASEF also is also supporting the participation of Southeast Asian cultural professionals at the Borak Arts Series through its [Mobility First!](#) travel grant. This is part of ASEF's efforts of working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by reducing inequality in the region (SDG #10). Ensuing that diverse voices are heard and have equal access to opportunities is a fundamental part of ASEF's Mobility First! programme as well as [culture360.ASEF.org's media partnerships](#), which showcase innovative arts events from under-represented countries. In addition, this ASEF Unplugged conversation, and subsequent networking opportunities, support the foundation for long-lasting collaboration and learning within Southeast Asia and Australia, leading to equitable quality learning for all (SDG #4).

The conversation comes at a time when strengthening Southeast Asian and Australian engagement is becoming increasingly important, and ASEF has an established history of working with Australian partners to enhance multilateral cooperation. In 2011, ASEF partnered with the [International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies](#) (IFACCA) for the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture in Melbourne, where the ASEF-supported [WorldCP-International database of cultural policies](#) was launched. Recently, ASEF also published the [Creative Responses to Sustainability Australia Guide](#), part of an ongoing series exploring the nexus between art and sustainability, an initiative of the arts and culture portal [culture360.ASEF.org](#).

About the ASEM and ASEF



Asia-Europe Meeting

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

For more information, please visit www.ASEMinfoboard.org



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, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

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).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org

About the Borak Arts Series and OzAsia



Borak Arts Series is an annual performing arts conference and market that creates opportunities and builds capacity through the congregation of Southeast Asian and artists, presenters, producers, intermediaries, international cultural leaders, funders, academics and students.

Since 2013, Borak Arts Series has welcomed over 1,100 delegates from 26 countries, 29 international festival directors and presenters as well 42 international funding stakeholders.

For more information, please visit www.borakarts.com



OzAsia Festival is Australia's leading international arts festival engaging with Asia. Held over 18 days this spring, the annual OzAsia Festival program presents the very best in contemporary dance, theatre, music, visual art, film, literature, food, family events, workshops, talks and more from across Asia today.

The expansive and innovative program attracts critical acclaim and praise annually, and is expected to attract 190,000 people over the duration of the festival.

For more information, please visit www.ozasiafestival.com.au
