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MEDIA CONTACT

Ms Debasmita Dasgupta
Asia-Europe Foundation
Debasmita.dasgupta@asef.org
T: +65 6874 9739
F: +65 6872 1135

PROGRAMME CONTACT

Ms Sasiwimon Wongjarin
Asia-Europe Foundation
Sasiwimon.wongjarin@asef.org
T: +65 6874 9741
M: (Indonesia)

Public-Private Partnerships key to managing heritage cities

ASEM Culture Ministers urged to partner with private sector and NGOs for sustainable management of heritage cities

14 July 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia – Ahead of the Fifth Culture Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM CMM) in September 2012, heritage experts recommend getting expertise, funding and capacity from different partners.

The 25 experts from 11 ASEM countries were in Yogyakarta for the Experts Meeting, "Managing Heritage Cities in Asia and Europe: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships", organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Centre for Heritage Conservation, Department of Architecture and Planning at the Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada, from 12 to 14 July 2012.

During the three-day event, they discussed the growing importance of public-private partnerships (PPP) in the management of heritage cities and highlighted successful case studies and best practices from Asia and Europe. Representing organisations such as ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and International National Trusts Organisation (INTO), the experts prepared a series of recommendations for ASEM Culture Ministers who will be meeting in Yogyakarta in September to discuss "Managing Heritage Cities for a Sustainable Future".

They outlined as priority the urgent need for public institutions to co-operate with private stakeholders in all phases of planning, implementing, monitoring and managing heritage cities by jointly adapting strategies, objectives and activating resources.

Further, they emphasised the value that urban heritage enhancement adds to cities by bringing economic development and social vitality. Heritage must be thought of in terms of socioeconomic-benefits and profits, they stressed; not in terms of costs and liabilities.

ASEF will present the full set of recommendations at the ASEM CMM, in keeping with its mandate to channel civil society recommendations to ASEM governments.

During a Public Forum held on 12 July and attended by over 150 people, the participating experts engaged with representatives from local NGOs and Indonesian government agencies including Ministry of Education and Culture and BAPPENAS (Public Private Partnership Development, National Development Planning Agency) as well as faculty members and students from Universitas Gadjah Mada.



Asia-Europe Foundation

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), which currently comprises of 46 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat (www.aseminfoboard.org) ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 550 projects in the realms of economy and society, environment, education, public health, arts and culture, human rights and governance, and inter-communal dialogue. www.asef.org

In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating **Connected Histories, Shared Future**.



Centre for Heritage Conservation, Department of Architecture and Planning, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada

The Centre for Heritage Conservation is attached to the Department of Architecture and Planning at the Faculty of Engineering at Universitas Gadjah Mada (CHC-UGM), which is the oldest and largest university in Indonesia located in Yogyakarta.

Since 1998, this centre has been developing the field of architectural and urban heritage conservation, as well as carrying out various activities in the field of heritage management. In practice, CHC-UGM has developed networks with world-wide universities and institutions that have the same vision in this issue. Meanwhile, CHC-UGM has also contributed in building heritage movement in Indonesia such as in the establishment of the Indonesian Network of Heritage Conservation (2000) and the Indonesian Heritage Trust (2004). In 2003, CHC-UGM was served as the secretariat of the Indonesian Heritage Year 2003.

