

FOCUS

A New ASEF Publication

The papers in this volume were presented at the ASEF/CEPII (Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales) conference in Paris, May 1998. The volume represents a first dialogue between European and Asian economists concerning the common outlook of the two continents following the financial crisis which struck Asia in 1997.

THE ASIAN CRISIS

A New Agenda for Euro-Asian Cooperation

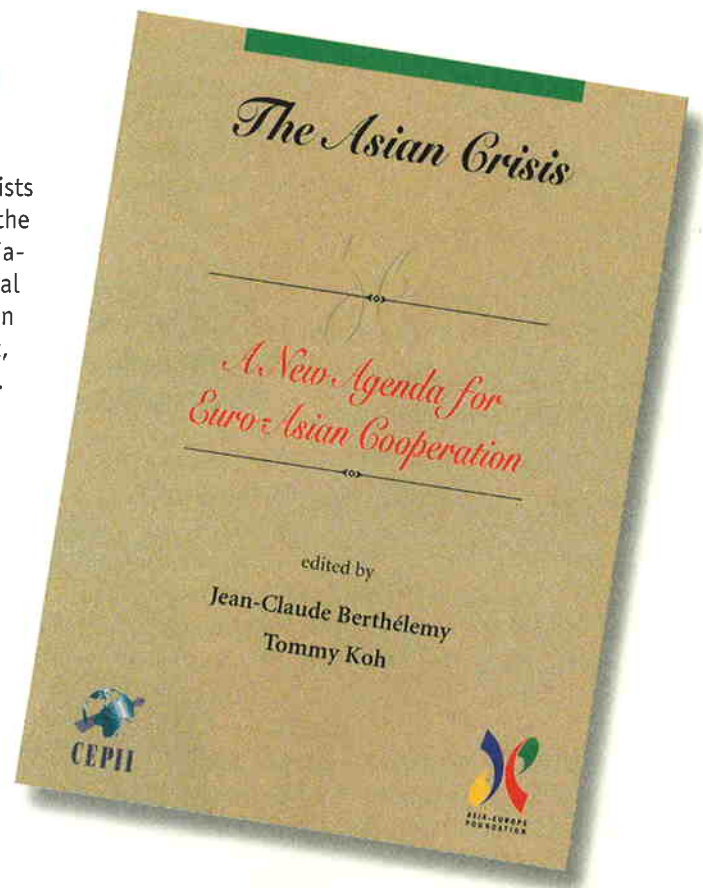
edited by Jean Claude Berthélemy and Tommy Koh

The Paris conference brought together Asian and European economists and economic practitioners for an open and critical appraisal of the nature and causes of the crisis, and the role the enhanced Asia-European relationship might have in addressing the future. Several Asian countries and major multilateral organisations (the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Bank for International Settlements, and the OECD) were represented.

Among the issues discussed are the consequences of the crisis for international trade, investment and growth, both at the regional and global level, and the architecture of the globalised, international financial system which has undergone a new crisis due to events in Asia. Conclusions are drawn concerning the evolution of the monetary and financial turmoil, and solutions for the future of the region and for its relations with Europe are considered.

This volume aims to preserve the live nature of the discussion and the cultural diversity of the presentations, while capturing the current state of the debate on the crisis.

The book is published in association with World Scientific Publishing Co Pte Ltd. It costs US\$32 and is on sale at all major bookstores.



FOCUS draws your attention to a new ASEF publication, *The Asian Crisis*.

UPDATE brings you up to speed on our latest projects including the Colloquium on Human Rights and Human Responsibilities in Hamburg and the Asia-Europe Classroom in cyberspace.

LOOKING AHEAD tells you what you can look forward to in the next few months, including the Cultural Heritage Meeting in Hanoi and Europe-Asia Forum 1999 in Munich.

SPECIAL FEATURE brings you news on the revamped ASEF Website!

ASEF Meeting of Publishers

"How to Promote Understanding between Asia and Europe through Publication"

6 October 1998
Frankfurt, Germany

Inaugural Workshop with the PEARL (Programme for Europe Asia Research Linkage) Network

7 - 9 October 1998
Seoul, South Korea

An ASEF Colloquium for Journalists

"How Can Europe Help Asia Without Provoking A Backlash?"

12 October 1998
Singapore

The meeting's aim was to explore the main cultural and commercial factors which influence the flows of books between the two regions.

A total of 43 publishers from Asia and Europe attended the ASEF meeting. The programme included a keynote address by Professor André Lévy, an eminent translator of Oriental literature, entitled "Un traducteur chez les éditeurs (A Translator at Home with Editors)". Mr Andreas T Langenscheidt, of the Langenscheidt publishing group, chaired the session.

This event introduced ASEF and its mission to the top publishers in the ASEM countries, and paved the way for ASEF to help build personal and institutional networks between them. For more information, please contact Cai Rongsheng at rscai@asef.org.

32 representatives from leading departments of Asian Studies, departments of European Studies, and research funding and policy institutions met in Seoul for the inaugural workshop of a new Asia-Europe grouping, PEARL.

The Workshop aimed to widen the original core which initiated PEARL, and at the same time, give detailed consideration to its role, purpose and future activity. The Institute of East West Studies of Yonsei University in Seoul hosted the meeting. Two keynote addresses were delivered by Professor Wang Gungwu and Professor John Clarke. For more information, please contact Duncan Jackman at djackman@asef.org.

Anticipating a large number of journalists in Singapore at the time of the WEF East Asia Economic Summit, ASEF organised An ASEF Colloquium for Journalists to raise the profile of ASEF and the awareness of Asia-Europe issues, amongst the media.

Four distinguished speakers from the region were invited to share their views on ***"How can Europe help Asia without Provoking a Backlash?"***

The speakers included Indonesia's Jusuf Wanandi, Thailand's Amaret Sila-On, Japan's Takeshi Kondo, and international economist Kenneth Curtis. The speakers' presentations were followed by a question and answer session chaired by ASEF Executive Director, Tommy Koh. Over 60 participants from national, regional and international media organisations in Asia, Europe, Australia, and the US attended the Colloquium. The speakers' papers are available on ASEF's website at <http://www.asef.org>. For more information, please contact Peggy Kek at peggykek@asef.org.



Left: Takeshi Kondo addressing the audience.

"Labour Relations in Asia and Europe : Exchanging Experiences and Perspectives"

26 - 27 October 1998
The Hague, Netherlands

The Seminar was co-organised by ASEF, the International Institute of Asian Studies, based in Leiden, Netherlands; and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Held in The Hague, it was attended by 56 participants from the ASEM member countries, representing trade unions, employers' federations, scholars, NGOs, and policy makers.

They discussed three important themes:

- (i) **Labour Relations and Core Labour Standards;**
- (ii) **The role of Trade Unions in Contemporary Asia and Europe; and**
- (iii) **Labour Standards, Social Conditions and International Trade.**

The seminar was conducted in a spirit of frank and collegial dialogue, and succeeded in identifying many areas of convergence between Asia and Europe participants; creating a new network of Asians and Europeans interested in the field of labour relations; and enabling Asian and Europeans to have a better mutual understanding of the areas where they disagree and the common search for solutions to them. participants also discussed the possibility of holding a future seminar, with a wider participation, to discuss the revolutionary changes taking place in the world economy and the need for trade unions and the I.L.O. to respond creatively to such challenges. For more information, please contact Duncan Jackman at djackman@asef.org.

Left to Right: Thommy Svensson (NIAS), Tommy Koh (ASEF) and Pierre Barroux (ASEF).

First ASEF Young Parliamentarians Meeting

13-16 November 1998
Cebu, Philippines

The Young Parliamentarians Meeting brought together Young Parliamentarians (up to 40 years of age), from both regions, for 3 days of close interaction.

The programme enabled participants to interact in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect favourable to keen and passionate discussions.

Outstanding keynote speakers led informal but intensive discussions on the topics of "Good Governance", "Economic Crisis Management" and "Constructive Engagement vs Confrontation: The Case of Myanmar". The programme included cultural events. This meeting provided Young Parliamentarians with an ideal opportunity to network at an early stage of their careers. For more information, please contact Ulrich Niemann at uniemann@asef.org.

Right: Graham Watson (European Parliament) and Kyung Pil Nam (Korea).

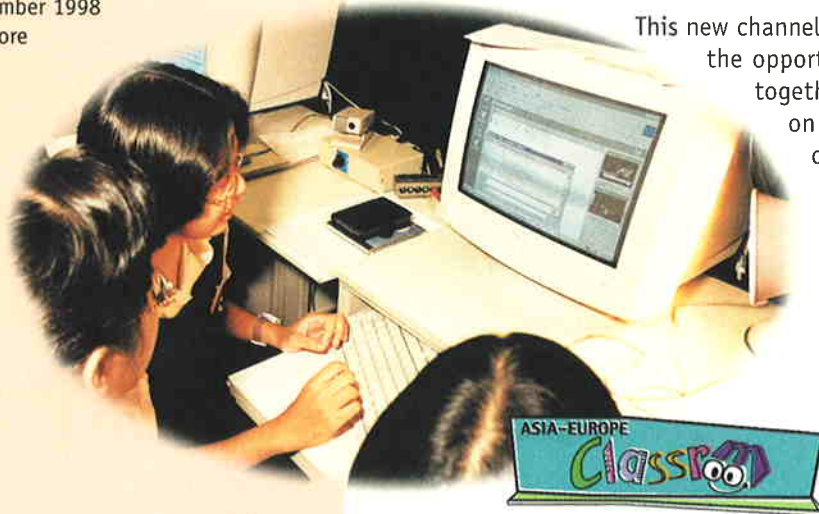


Colloquium on Human Rights and Human Responsibilities

20-21 November 1998
Hamburg, Germany

Launch of Asia-Europe Classroom

2 December 1998
Singapore



Together with leading German newspaper, Die Zeit, ASEF co-organised a meeting of distinguished commentators on Human Rights issues.

Former heads of state, international humanitarian lawyers, academics and human rights experts assembled to mark the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights, to review its record, and to recommend practical steps to enhance its observance.

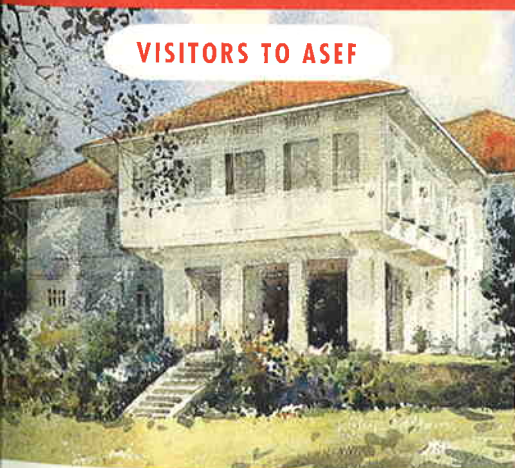
The meeting was also organised to give Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of Germany, an opportunity to present the draft Declaration on Human Responsibilities of the InterAction Council. Its merits and demerits were debated, as was the impact of globalisation and the role that culture and context played on human rights. The meeting also looked to the future, to the challenges and tasks ahead for Asians and Europeans as members of a new global community. For more information, please contact Leigh Pasqual at leighann@asef.org.

The Asia-Europe Classroom (<http://www.asef.org/aec>) provides a virtual meeting place for high school students from Asia and Europe.

This new channel in cyberspace provides these students with the opportunity to work and learn together, pooling together their resources and technical expertise on common projects which will be showcased on the website. For more information, please contact Kerstin Otto at kotto@aec.asef.org.

Right: Students of Raffles Girls' School, Singapore.

VISITORS TO ASEF



On 14 September 1998, ASEF was honoured and delighted to welcome the former President of the Philippines to No.1 Nassim Hill. After a short tour of the building, a video presentation, and a comprehensive briefing on the activities of the Foundation, President Fidel Ramos gave ASEF the thumbs-up.



Jan

21-22

Hanoi, Vietnam

First ASEM Experts Meeting on Protection & Promotion of Cultural Heritage

Co-sponsored by ASEF, Vietnam Ministry of Culture and Information and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Feb

21-24

Borobudur, Indonesia

WOW International Conference & Exhibition

Organised by the World of Archaeological Wonders with the participation of ASEF

Mar-May

1 Mar

Singapore
EMU Roadshow

Organised by ASEF, the Singapore Association of Banks, the Stock Exchange of Singapore and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange Limited

5-7 Mar

Deauville, France
Asian Film Festival

Organised by the Association for the Promotion of Asian Films, and co-sponsored by ASEF

25 Mar-1 Apr

Barcelona, Spain
ASEF Cultural Managers Training Seminar

Co-organised by ASEF and Observatory Interarts

29 Mar - 11 Apr

Berlin, Germany
Asia-Europe Classroom Exhibition

Co-organised by ASEF and Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW)

13-7 Apr

Cannes, France
ASEF Meeting of Cultural and Educational TV Channels

Co-organised by ASEF and La Sept Arte

30 Apr-1 May

Munich, Germany
Second Europe-Asia Forum

Co-organised by the Herbert Quandt Foundation (HQF), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), and ASEF

19-21 May

Beijing, China
Asia-Europe Conference On Cultural Industries & Cultural Development

24-28 May

Seoul, Korea
Third Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium

Organised by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the support of ASEF

ASEF is proud to present the Singapore leg of its **European Monetary Union (EMU) Roadshow** in Asia. On 1 March 1999, Mr Christian Noyer, Vice-President of the European Central Bank (ECB) will speak on "The Euro: Impact on Asia and the World". The Singapore event is the second (after Hong Kong) of the ASEF EMU Roadshow and is co-organised with the Singapore Association of Banks, the Stock Exchange of Singapore and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange Limited.



Asia-Europe Classroom Exhibition The exhibition will showcase a series of photographs and videos compiled by high schools from the ASEM countries involved in the "Asia-Europe Classroom". During the exhibition, we will also set up an Internet café where the AEC schools can communicate via the internet with visiting school classes. The best exhibits stand to win special Awards. The AEC Exhibition will be inaugurated during the ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in Berlin.

Europe-Asia Forum 1999 The Europe-Asia Forum (EAF), jointly organised by the Herbert Quandt Stiftung, the Institute of Policy Studies and ASEF, assembles leading European and Asian representatives from the worlds of politics, business, academia and the media, in order to discuss issues of major concern to both Asia and Europe. The EAF aims to further the political, economic and cultural dialogue between these two regions and to contribute to a better mutual understanding of their cultures and ways of life. EAF 1999, the second in the series, will focus on the process of economic recovery in Asia, the impact of the Euro on Asia and Europe, and education and human resource development in the 21st century. The inaugural EAF was held in Singapore in February 1998.

A New Look for a New Year! www.asef.org Undergoes Revamp

The ASEF official website has undergone a facelift! Since the ASEF website was launched in August 1997, it has grown by leaps and bounds. www.asef.org now boasts of more than 300 pages. To accommodate the new pages, we have re-organised the site to make it more visitor-friendly. So, come and visit!



NEW SEARCH ENGINE

A search engine in the Speeches and Sources section helps you find the information you need easily. Sources of information on Asia-Europe related issues include papers presented at ASEF events, speeches by ASEF Executive Director Tommy Koh, ASEF media releases and selected newspaper articles.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO ASEF E-NEWS

ASEF E-News is a new electronic newsletter that gives you the latest information on the happenings at ASEF. So visit www.asef.org and sign up for a free subscription today!

LINKS TO RELATED SITES

The World Wide Web is a big place and it can take a lot of time looking for what you need out there. But at www.asef.org, we bring you straight to the sites you want! In this "Links" section, we've organised selected sites under each ASEM country. There are also separate sections for ASEM-related sites, Media Organisations, International Organisations and Scholarships.

NEW FEATURES

An ASEM Companion: www.asef.org/asef

An ASEM Companion helps you to keep an eye on the ASEM process. Visit the section to view summaries of statements made by the Chairmen of various ministerial and senior officials meetings, and update yourself on the latest developments in the various ASEM initiatives such as the ASEM Trust Fund and the ASEM Action for Children.



Asia-Europe Classroom: www.asef.org/aec

Schooling has never been this much fun! The Asia-Europe Classroom provides chat rooms and project rooms for high school students to talk and work with each other across the continents.



FROM OUR READERS

In this section, 'From Our Readers', we will feature and respond to your letters or e-mail. We want to make ASEF News interesting and useful to you. If you have any comments about this issue, or about what you would like to see in future issues of ASEF News, we'd love to hear from you.

Please write to:
The Editor, ASEF News,
1 Nassim Hill,
Singapore 258 466
Fax: (65) 732 4371,
Email: info@asef.org



ASEF News is
Published by the Asia-Europe Foundation
Edited by Peggy Kek
Proofread by Kuan Soo Phen