

## FOCUS

### New ASEF Building Inaugurated by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong 6 - 7 November / Singapore

**The new Asia-Europe Foundation building, which was built at the cost of S\$5.1 million (2.5 million Euros) by the Singapore Government and donated to ASEF, was inaugurated by Prime Minister on 6 November, coinciding with the 14th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting.**



Official inauguration with Singapore Prime Minister Goh



Meeting in progress

The new building which is both aesthetically elegant and functional is located at the "think-tank complex" of National University of Singapore allowing ASEF to interact more actively with other multilateral and academic institutions in the neighbourhood such as Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat and Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

The event was attended by around 180 invited guests mainly from the diplomatic and academic communities in Singapore, representatives from other multilateral institutions, and the media.

Executive Director of ASEF, Amb. Delfin Colomé commented, "We are very grateful to the Government of Singapore and in particular, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for the continued support and enthusiasm he has shown towards ASEF. In the last seven years, ASEF has put together about 10,000 people of Asia and Europe through almost 300 programs. This is a proud achievement that is rightfully shared with all member countries and the European Commission. In the new home, we hope to further our efforts in order to achieve even greater results and enlarge the number of ASEF alumni. We have certainly been privileged to have been able to operate out of Singapore under the generous sponsorship and care of the Singapore Government."

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**Asia-Europe  
Regionalisation Series  
East Asia & Europe: Experimenting  
with Region Building  
1 - 3 October  
Paris, France**

**Co-organised with Centre Asie at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) (France) and De La Salle University (Philippines), the objective of this meeting was to discuss and analyse the current state of the regional debate in East Asia and possible areas for initiatives and contributions from Europe.**



During the presentations



Former President of Indonesia Abdurrahman Wahid making closing remarks

It was a timely occasion for academics and politicians from each side to provide the current pictures on the construction of regional institutions and their socio-political developments, challenges, status of security and the future prospects of the bi-regional relations and also to exchange their views on what could be some of the useful lessons that could be drawn from the European integration experience to be taken into account in Asia and vice versa by the policy-makers as well as the civil society. They also explored if there were any possibilities in the future of Asia following the regional integration model of the European Union. Considering the various factors in Asia that were very different from the European circumstances and interests, however, most participants concurred that such a comparison should consider the Asian particularities involving constitutional, military, economic, and monetary aspects.

The conference addressed the following issues over three days, which was covered by several media from Asia and Europe:

1. East Asia and Western Europe, between Regionalisation and Globalisation
2. The Region as a Security Community
3. The Driving Forces of Institutions: The Region as a Construction

Some of the prominent political personalities invited to the conference were: Surin Pitsuwan, Rodolfo C. Severino, Gilles Andréani, and Abdurrahman Wahid.

For more information, please contact [caroline@asef.org](mailto:caroline@asef.org)

**8th Pusan Film Festival  
(ASEF Cultural Grants)  
2 - 10 October  
Pusan, Korea**

**ASEF supported seven young film directors from Asia and two from Europe to attend 8th Pusan International Film Festival with ASEF Cultural Grants (Japan Trust Fund):**

- Thomas de Thier (Feathers in My Head), Belgium
- Costanza Quatriglio (The Island), Italy
- Royston Tan (15), Singapore
- Jia Zhanke (Xiao Wu), China
- Yanan Diao (Uniform), China
- Gan Xiao'er (The Only Sons), China
- Pimpaka Towira (One Night Husband), Thailand
- Penek Ratanarvang (Last Life in the Universe), Thailand
- Ryuji Masuda (Garacuta), Japan

The ASEF Cultural Grants programme offered them two unique opportunities to present their films to the audience and to network with other cinema professionals.



**AIBD/ ASEF Cultural & Educational Children's TV Programmes**

6 - 10 October  
Hanoi, Vietnam

**ASEF and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development co-organised a one-week workshop on children's TV programmes with Vietnam Training Centre for Radio & Television as the host.**

More than 15 attended this workshop led by Ms Ragna Wallmark, who is the Head of Children's Programmes, Swedish Public Service Company and Head of Programmes at UR - The Swedish Educational Company. The topics discussed at the workshop were: 1) The importance of national children's television in the age of globalisation; 2) How do we define culture; 3) Storytelling. How to compete with Disney with our own national sagas; 4) Documentaries on children television; magazine programmes.

This first workshop had been organised in Singapore last November with the support from Singapore Broadcasting Authority, Singaporean Ministries of Education, and of Community Development and Sports.

**Asia-Europe Workshop on Children's TV Programmes**

9 - 11 October  
Munich, Germany

**ASEF and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development co-organised a three-day workshop on Children's TV Programmes in close collaboration with Prix Jeunesse Foundation at Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich, Germany.**

The workshop was enriched by professional input from Prix Jeunesse, researchers from Bayerischer Rundfunk, and consultants from Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF).

The workshop started with the screening of each participant's production, divided according to the age group of the audience, followed by the exchange of views on each programme. The second day consisted of an academic discussion on children's psychology and interest, with emphasis on the concepts of edutainment and interactivity in children's programme. The third day was dedicated to screening the award winning children's TV programme from the latest Prix Jeunesse Festival 2002, called "Prix Jeunesse Suitcase" and regarded as the best model for children's TV programme.

The small group of participants (15 from education, children, youth programmes) engaged in lively debates and interactive discussions, comprehensively covering both theory and practices in children TV programme making.



During the workshop

**Asia-Europe Youth Training for Trainers Course**

13 - 20 October  
Seoul, Korea

**The Course was co-organised with the Network for Voluntary Development Asia (NVDA), supported by the Alliance of the European Voluntary Service Organisations and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), and hosted by the International Workcamp Organisation (IWO).**

Asia-Europe Youth Training for Trainers Course (TfT) aims to strengthen institutional links among youth organisations in Asia and Europe. The overall focus of the seminar is to facilitate the sharing of experiences, resources and ideas on training, as well as the compilation of information amongst the different organisations for each to develop its own programmes. More broadly, TfT seeks to build a pool of experienced trainers for future activities to enhance better mutual exchanges between Asia and Europe.

Some 30 work camp leaders from youth organisations across Asia and Europe engaged actively in discussions during the week-long seminar, exchanging ideas and solutions that would prove useful in future youth training programmes.

The participants also had the opportunity to appreciate the Korean traditional art performances at Jeongdong Theatre, followed by a guided tour to the Gyeongbok Palace.



Participants of the Asia-Europe Training for Trainers Course

For more information, please contact [yvonne@asef.org](mailto:yvonne@asef.org)

**The Year of Living Digitally,  
Digital Sounds  
(ASEF Cultural Grants)  
17 - 19 October  
Singapore**

**The Year of Living Digitally was a Festival around the impact of digital technology on everyday life and the ways in which this is reflected and explored in different art forms such as web, film, sound, and visual performance.**



The artists with their awards

ASEF supported 9 artists from 6 Asian and European countries to participate in one of the Festival events, *Audio Output* involving electronic sound and music.

After public performances on the first two days, a public presentation-workshop offered the audience a chance to interact with the artists.

These talks and workshops explored the context of the artists' work, the use of technology and addressed the crucial issues confronted by the independent and electronic musicians.

More information is found at: [livedigitally.net](http://livedigitally.net).



Miroque



Vlad Luomo

**3rd Asia-Europe Roundtable:  
Peace and Reconciliation  
Success Stories and Lessons  
in Europe and Asia  
20 - 21 October  
Hanoi, Vietnam**

**The Asia-Europe Roundtable (AER) is a joint initiative of ASEF, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Singapore, and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) since 2000. The 3rd AER on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation was hosted by Institute for International Relations (IIR) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam.**



Participants pose in front of the Vietnam Institute for International Relations (IIR) with Austrian Representative to the UN and WTO Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, former ASEAN Secretary-General Rodolfo Severino, and Ambassador Trinh Quang Thanh, Director-General, IIR. (Front Row, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from right, respectively)

Seventy participants from 22 different countries in Asia and Europe attended the meeting, with a balanced mix of policy-makers, parliamentarians, scholars, policy researchers, and representatives from think tanks and NGOs.

Case studies from the two regions and the roles and limits of external actors in the reconciliation process were presented. This roundtable employed a strategy of Europeans presenting Asian cases and Asians presenting European case studies.

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(L-R) Prof. Tom Hart, Stockholm School of Asian Studies; IIR Assistant Director General Pham Cao Phong; European Parliament MP John Wells Cushnahan, ASEF Director for Intellectual Exchange, Bertrand Fort.

### Case studies from Asia:

- Vietnam-ASEAN
- Indonesia-East Timor
- North-South Korea

### Case studies from Europe:

- France-Germany after World War II
- The Former Yugoslavia
- Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland

This cross-fertilisation of ideas led to a very lively discussion and thought-provoking debate on the following major questions and issues:

- How could 'reconciliation' be defined?
- What are the pre-conditions for reconciliation?
- How can its success be measured?
- Who are the key actors?
- What could be learnt from experiences of reconciliation processes in Asia and Europe?

A common understanding of reconciliation emerged: it is a process which has to take place once preventive diplomacy has failed; where a conflict has emerged; and where conflict management and conflict resolution have taken place. Conflict prevention should therefore be given highest priority. As Talleyrand stated in the 19th century: 'When it is urgent, it is already too late'.

In his keynote speech, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, former High Representative to Bosnia and now Austrian Representative to the United Nations (UN) and to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, emphasised the importance of a co-ordinated and multi-pronged approach taken by the international actors. Unique first-hand insights into the complexity of peace-building were provided by former ASEAN Secretary General Rodolfo Severino, Member of the European Parliament John Walls Cushnahan, former Portuguese Ambassador to Indonesia Ana Gomes, ASEF Governor for Indonesia Amb. Sastrohandoyo Wiryo, and the Chairperson of the East Timor Commission on Reception, Truth & Reconciliation Aniceto Guterres Lopes.

As the final analysis, peace and reconciliation are long-term and incomplete processes in many countries in Asia, Europe and in the international community. The 3rd Asia-Europe Roundtable was one small step on that long, difficult and sometimes even dangerous road towards peace and reconciliation.

For more information, please contact [so.iglesias@asef.org](mailto:so.iglesias@asef.org)

## ***The Fifth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting was a joint collaboration between ASEF and the National People's Congress, with strong support coming from the Guilin People's Congress, Guilin Municipal Government and the People's Congress of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.***

Forty-two young parliamentarians from 14 ASEM countries and the European Parliament gathered in Guilin, China during the Fifth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting to exchange views and perspectives on the theme, "Promoting Mutual Growth and Development in Asia and Europe Through Strengthened Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue". The meeting took stock of the current state of relations between Asia and Europe within three pillars of co-operation: political and security dialogue, economic co-operation and the dialogue on cultures and civilisations.

The international fight against terrorism was a central theme in the discussion on political and security dialogue, as a debate ensued over the effectiveness of current anti-terrorism measures and the necessity of having a multilateral framework when coming up with suitable approaches. It was noted that countries should develop short and long-term strategies targeting not only terrorist acts, but also the causes of such acts. Caution would also need to be practiced to balance the fight against terrorism with the protection of civil liberties.

Although it was noted that globalisation is both a neutral force and an irreversible trend, the challenges arising from economic globalisation remained a source of concern during the dialogue on enhancing economic co-operation. It was however, mentioned that increased regional co-operation could minimise the risks posed by economic globalisation. Policy-makers at the local level could play a major role in coming up with policies to jointly address the challenges of globalisation, as well as move towards increased institutionalisation.

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Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, Austrian Representative to the UN, WTO and former UN High Representative to Bosnia  
*"I found this meeting extremely valuable... The way ASEF and its partners shaped the meeting demonstrates its effectiveness for fostering dialogue on such a sensitive but crucial issue for Asia and Europe."*

### **5th ASEF Young Parliamentarians' Meeting**

23 - 26 October  
 Guilin, China

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**5th ASEF Young  
Parliamentarians' Meeting**  
23 - 26 October  
Guilin, China

With regards to the dialogue among cultures and civilisations, it was noted that culture is becoming increasingly prominent in international relations: the "globalisation of culture" and the theory of a clash of civilisations were widely discussed at the meeting. The assertion that different civilisations were destined to clash was rejected. Instead, there was a broad agreement that culture had never been a negative force in international relations and that cultural diversity is an asset that must be respected and preserved.

A common point of the discussions was the importance of dialogue at all levels. Parliamentarians emphasised frequent interaction and exchange between the peoples of Asia and Europe as major contributing factors toward the strengthening of relations between the two regions.

The Lijiang Declaration, bearing testament to the importance of strengthening the relationship between Asia and Europe through increased co-operation, dialogue and exchanges, was unanimously adopted at the conclusion of the meeting. Parliamentarians stated their concerns with world peace and stability and the promotion of economic, social development and world prosperity. They also committed themselves to actively participate in and push forward the ASEM process for even greater progress.

For more information, please contact [cathy@asef.org](mailto:cathy@asef.org)

**Asia-Europe Videoconference  
on Multiculturalism and  
Intercultural Understanding**  
25 October  
Singapore

***The four-hour videoconference was organised in partnership with the French Embassy in Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The Asian audience in Singapore invited by ASEF and its co-partners, was simultaneously linked with the European audience in Poitiers, France at the 13th European Meeting on Science and People, Futuroscope.***

In Singapore, utilising a "smart classroom" in NTU, Ms. Pascale Fabre of *Alliance Française*, Singapore, moderated the discussions on policy issues surrounding the management of multiculturalism and the promotion of inter-cultural understanding. Thirty social scientists working in the fields of anthropology, sociology, political science, and others were invited from the ten Asian member countries of ASEF and other Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) countries. Around 40 local students, professionals and representatives of the local research fraternity joined the participants in Singapore.

In Poitiers, the discussion was moderated by Dr Gil Delannoi, Member of the Scientific Board of the Sciences and Society of Futuroscope and *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS). A five-member panel from Asia and Europe, including Dr Jean-Marc Bouissou, Director of Research of the Centre of International Studies and Research (CERI), discussed their perspectives on multiculturalism to a European audience of more than 50 students and scientists. The videoconference was an integral part of the 13th Meeting on Science and People, which was organised by the Paris-based CNRS, and brought together hundreds of youth and scientists from 24 to 26 October, at Futuroscope in Poitiers, France.

For more information, please contact [sol.iglesias@asef.org](mailto:sol.iglesias@asef.org)



In Singapore, moderator Pascale Fabre sorts out technical adjustments during the set-up



The "smart classroom" of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore