

FOCUS

15th Board of Governors' Meeting 27 - 28 May / Dublin, Ireland

Amb. Cho Won-Il from Korea has been officially confirmed the next Executive Director of ASEF in Dublin, Ireland, during the biannual Board of Governor's meeting.



Thus he will succeed Amb. Dr. Colomé from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October this year as the third Executive Director of ASEF since its establishment in 1997. Cho Won-Il is currently the Consul-General in New York. He was previously the Ambassador to Vietnam, Deputy Representative of the South Korean Mission to the UN, and Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning at the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade since entering the Ministry in 1968. The position of Executive Director alternates between Europe and Asia every three to four years.

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- ASEF-ACYF Youth EXPLORE "Culture and the Environment: Management of Water Resources in China"
- 35th Poetry International Festival, "Asia-Europe" (ASEF Cultural Grants)
- Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue - Conference Series, "Connecting Civil Societies"
- 3rd Gender Agenda Conference, Steering Committee Meeting
- Asia-Europe Cultural Policy Seminar
- ASEM Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Strengthening Co-operation among Youth in Asia and Europe
- Asia-Europe TV Documentary Series 3: France & Thailand

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15th Board of Governors' Meeting

27 - 28 May

Dublin, Ireland

Mr. Hendrik Kloninger the new Deputy Executive Director has started his duty at ASEF as of 1 May. He was also warmly welcomed at the Board Meeting. Mr. Kloninger was born in Berlin, and has previously served as the Director of Goethe Institute in Dakar, Senegal prior to joining ASEF. His responsibilities as the Director in Senegal included overseeing programmes such as exhibition projects, academic seminar projects, and cultural co-operation with the embassies of the European countries in Dakar, which led to his founding the informal working group, "Groupe Culture Europe".

In addition to approving new projects and reviewing the financial records, the Governors also discussed about the long-term sustainability of the Foundation. A paper will be submitted to the Senior Officials of ASEM and the Foreign Ministers prior to the ASEM Summit in Hanoi this year.



During the Board Meeting

Board of Governors

Austria	Amb. Dr. Wolfgang Schallenberg
Belgium	Amb. Philippe Kridelka
Brunei Darussalam	Amb. Datin Tan Bee Yong
China	Mr. Wang Min
Denmark	Amb. J. Ørstrøm Møller
European Commission	Dr. Horst G. Krenslar
Finland	Ms. Kaarina Suonio
France	Mr. François Xavier Ortoli
Germany	Dr. Helmut Haussmann
Greece	Amb. Sotirios Mousouris
Indonesia	Amb. Sastrohandoyo Wiroyono
Ireland	Dr. Tom P. Hardiman
Italy	Prof. Carlo Giovanni Cereti
Japan	Mr. Takayuki Kimura
Korea	Amb. Chang-Hee Roe
Luxembourg	Mr. Edmond Israel
Malaysia	Dr. Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof
Netherlands	Amb. Paul R. Brouwer
Philippines	Amb. Jaime J Yambao
Portugal	Lieutenant-General Vasco Rocha Vieira
Singapore	Mr. J Y Pillay
Spain	Amb. Ion de la Riva
Sweden	Mr. Erland Ringborg
Thailand	Amb. Saroj Chavanavirai
United Kingdom	Sir Timothy Lankester
Vietnam	Me. Nguyen Dang Ouang

Asia-Europe Environment Forum: 2nd Roundtable "Reinforcing Asia-Europe Co-operation on Climate Change"

25 - 26 March
Jeju, Korea

Forty top-level climate change and environment experts from government, academia, research institutes, non-government organisation, and the private sector called for the Asia-Europe Environment Forum to provide the launching pad for an Asia-Europe taskforce or observatory for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project facilitation between Asia and Europe.



Group photo

This mechanism could take on such functions as capacity and institution-building, technology cooperation, pooling/showcasing of good practices and experiences, information exchange, and research.

The roundtable was held back-to-back with the Global Civil Society Forum on 27-28 March and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on 29-31 March at the same venue. It was the second in a series of roundtables under the "Asia-Europe Environment Forum", which is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The up-coming 3rd Roundtable "Technology Partnerships for Renewables: Key to Energy Security" on 26-28 August in Stockholm, Sweden will be held on the sidelines of the largest ever pan-European scientific meeting, the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2004 in Stockholm. The final session of the roundtable has been selected as one out of 45 scientific sessions at the ESOF 2004. Moreover, ASEF brings an Asian participation to this European event through the support of up to 20 Asian scientists.

Please visit <http://env.asef.org> for more information.

Contact: sol.iglesias@asef.org.



Richard Kinley

"In my view, for there to be progress in the next round of climate change commitments, I feel that there has to be strong coalition and that coalition is missing right now. At this point in time, the negotiations are waiting for a coalition of countries who want something to happen, to step forward and make some proposals. Channelled into something concrete, the idea of Asia-Europe co-operation is very natural and very important for hope rather than despair over the state of international climate policy".
- Richard Kinley, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)

NatFilm Festival
26 March - 11 April
Copenhagen, Denmark

NatFilm Festival is the biggest international film event in Denmark.

As in every year, each cinema in Copenhagen participated in the festival, which also screened parts of the programme in three other cities in Denmark: Odense, Aalborg and Århus. NatFilm Festival is considered as an important platform for domestic distributors, while promoting everything from Hollywood releases to cutting-edge films during the event.



Jan Krueger, Germany and Bong Joon-Ho, Korea while surfing on <http://sea-images.asef.org>



Visit of the school led by Tina Sorensen, Head of Training Department

For the 2004 edition, four young film directors from Asia and Europe received ASEF Cultural Grants to take part in the festival:

- David Caffrey, Ireland, *Grand Theft Parsons*
- Bong Joon-Ho, South Korea, *Memories of Murder*
- Jan Krüger, Germany, *En route (Unterwegs)*
- Lee Sang-Il, Japan, *Border Line*

They presented their films to the audience and took part in a visit of the National Film School of Denmark (www.filmskolen.dk). This professional visit allowed them to know more about the cinema situation in Denmark (film school system, funding, etc). It was also an occasion to learn more about the resources available in SEA Images website (sea-images.asef.org).

Visit <http://sea-images.asef.org> (under About us/About ASEF/ASEF Cultural Grants) for more information or email marielesourd@asef.org.

First Asian Film Festival of Paris

31 March - 4 April
Paris, France

Asia-Europe Foundation, through its ASEF Cultural Grants Programme, supported the first Asian Film Festival of Paris.

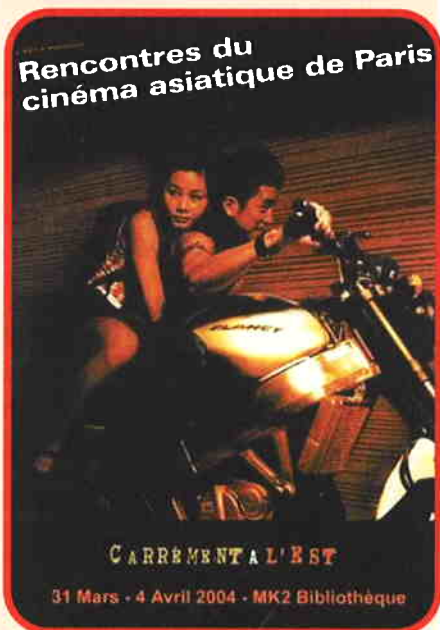
The ASEF Cultural Grants Programme allowed three young film directors to present their films in Paris [Jasmine Ng, Singapore for "Eating Air", Pen-Ek Ratanaruang, Thailand for "Monrak Transistor" and Kim Jee Woon, Korea for his film retrospective (including "A tale of Two sisters", "The quiet family" etc)] and to interact with film professionals from France and Asia.

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First Asian Film Festival of Paris

31 March - 4 April
Paris, France



Official poster of the First Asian Film Festival of Paris

Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue - Asian Lecture Tour by Cesar de Prado Yepes "Excelling Globalisation: Connecting Innovations from the European Union and East Asia"

April 2004



Dr. Prado at Macau International Institute



Group photo of the directors of Asian film festivals in Europe and guests

With the co-operation of the Asian Film Festival Paris committee, a special roundtable with the directors of Asian Film Festivals in Europe (Vezoul, Paris, Berlin, Udine and Barcelona) was organised for the first time. This first meeting highlighted the similarities and differences among Asian Film Festivals' approaches in Europe while emphasizing the need for more co-ordination to face the increasing competition among Film Festivals.

Visit <http://sea-images.asef.org> (under About us/About ASEF/ASEF Cultural Grants) for more information on the recommendations of this roundtable or email marielesourd@asef.org.

In the fourth of the Lecture Tours Series, Dr Cesar de Prado Yepes, of the Comparative Regional Integration Studies Programme, United Nations University (Bruges, Belgium) visited 5 cities in Northeast Asia.

Throughout April, he was hosted in these cities by the Chinese Association for European Studies (Beijing), the European Studies Centre (Shanghai), the Institute of Korean Politics (Seoul), the International Centre of Keio University (Tokyo), the Centre of Asian Studies (Hong Kong) and the International Institute of Macau, where he delivered his lecture entitled, "Excelling Globalisation: Connecting Innovations from the European Union and East Asia."

This lecture argued that the global comparative advantage of both Western Europe and East Asia rests not in military might, but in incremental peace through the rapid acquisition and wise use of knowledge by more people. It examined public and private networks between countries - specifically of Western Europe and East Asia, and focused particularly on businesses and the academia. Finally, his lecture asked if policymakers in both regions are ready for this level of connectedness.

The text of his lecture as well as his slide presentation may be viewed at www.civdialogue.asef.org.

For more information, please contact Sohni Kaur at sohni.kaur@asef.org.

**1st EU-Japan-Asia
Journalists Conference
"New Asia and New Europe"**

6 - 9 April
Fukuoka, Japan



Group photo

**Asia-Europe Workshop series
2004/2005, Selection
Committee Meeting**

9 April
Singapore

Themed "New Asia and New Europe," the 1st EU-Japan-Asia Journalists Conference was organised by ASEF and the Delegation of the European Commission in Japan.

Former ASEAN Secretary-General, Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino delivered the keynote address on the future of ASEAN in the twenty-first century, providing the historical and socio-economical background of ASEAN as well as the current ASEAN+3 process.

His address led to a stimulating discussion on the comparison of the EU and the ASEAN mode of integration as well as discussions on national sovereignty in the wake of globalisation.

Wide ranging discussions among the participants covered: security issues; Japan's foreign policy; trade, economic development and progress; governance; and democracy. Felix Soh, Deputy Editor of The Straits Times, Singapore presented a poll he conducted amongst the Asian journalists. He stressed that there was not enough understanding between the media of Asia and Europe which often led to reports from the European media that were factually accurate but lacking in depth of understanding of Asian societies and political systems. He added that conferences such as this Journalists Conference are good platforms to bridge the lack of understanding.

Contact: laiyee@asef.org.

The third annual selection committee, a co-operation between ASEF and the European Alliance for Asian Studies (www.asia-alliance.org) was held on 9 April 2004 in Singapore.

For the first time, 9 workshops were selected by the committee, of which 3 workshops will be fully funded by ASEF for realisation during the period of 2004 and 2005.

Of the thirty-seven proposals received, twenty-seven proposals submitted to the committee for selection fitted the project guidelines. For the results of the successful proposals, please refer to the newly launched website by ASEF at <http://aews.asef.org>

The members of the Selection Committee are Ambassador Dr. Delfin Colomé, Executive Director (ASEF); Professor Wim A.L. Stokhof, Director, International Institute of Asian Studies (the Netherlands); Professor Shamsul A.B. Professor of Social Anthropology and Director, Institute of the Malay World & Civilization (ATMA) (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur); Professor Taciana Fisac, Titular Professor of Language and Culture of the Far East, UAM, Director, Centro de Estudios de Asia Oriental (Madrid, Spain); Professor Hahn Chaibong, Department of Political Science, Yonsei University (Korea) and Director of the Division of Social Sciences Research & Policy, UNESCO; Professor Lily Kong, Vice Provost (Education), National University of Singapore; Professor Jean-Luc Domenach, Fondation Nationale des Sciences-Politiques (France) / Tsinghua University (Beijing, China), Prof H.W. Maull, University of Trier (Germany).

The European Alliance for Asian Studies gathers 7 research centers, namely, the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), the Institute of Asian Affairs (IFA), the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), Asia Europe Centre (AEC), Centro de Estudios de Asia Oriental, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Please visit <http://aews.asef.org> or <http://asia-alliance.org> for more information.

Contact: caroline@asef.org.

Asia-Europe Dialogue on Security: New Security Challenges for Asia and Europe

21 - 23 April
Beijing, China

The two-day meeting brought over 70 eminent scholars, researchers, and policy-makers from Asia and Europe in the field of regional security to discuss the prospects of greater Asia-Europe co-operation on security.

21 TO 23 APRIL 2004

With the support of the
an Aeronautic Defence and Space Company(EADS)
and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs



(L-R) Former Ambassador of China to the UK, Amb. Ma Zhengang; Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (China) HE Zhang Yesui; ASEF Director for Intellectual Exchange, Bertrand Fort

The discussions focused on:

- Perceptions of new challenges and security threats in Asia and Europe and the concept of "comprehensive security";
- Asia-Europe comparison on regional conditions and security mechanisms; and
- Prospects for greater dialogue and co-operation.

The organisers have presented the final report of the conference to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs of all 25 ASEM member countries. The Asia-Europe Dialogue on Security was co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) with the China Institute for

International Studies (CIIS) and supported by the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Contact: natalia@asef.org.

Photo Exhibition "Migrations"

26 April - 20 June
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The exhibition "Migrations," organised by World Press Photo Foundation, was based on selected photographs from the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers, which was co-organised with ASEF in December 2003.



One of the visitors Hikau Toda, 21, commented: "I visited your exhibition in the Oude Kerke, Amsterdam today and I was very intrigued by the projects you engage in. The exhibition of the ASEF project "Migrations" was very inspiring, and being a Japanese living in Holland, the images were very reflective of myself and many people I know within the international community I live in. I think the issue of migration is an inescapable reality of the globalised world today and I felt that such a project really captured the realms of the global trend of migration and cultural hybridisation."

Contact: marielesourd@asef.org.

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