



**8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE)**  
**Intercultural Approaches to Environmental Sustainability**  
*August 21 – 4 September 2009, Singburi, Thailand*

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

The Asia-Europe Foundation and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service are pleased to announce that the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE) will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009, and herewith invite you to apply to participate in the project.

As a direct follow-up of the AEYVE 2008 and based on the needs and priorities identified by the participating organisations, their representatives and the institutional partners involved, the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange will concentrate on the environmental pillar of Sustainable Development, fortifying the role and impact of international voluntary service in fostering environmental conservation, and understanding and mitigating the causes and effects of climate change.

The project “**Intercultural approaches to Environmental Sustainability**” aims at providing participants from various Asian and European countries the opportunity to familiarise themselves with environmental issues, share existing knowledge and experience in the field and improve the current practices of voluntary service organisations and projects. Environmental issues including the fact and consequence of climate change will play an important role during the project. At the same time, it will also explore the dimension of sustainable choices and lifestyles in a larger perspective, thus linking local action to global reflection. Intercultural learning, also a central focus of this project, will be used as a key resource to deepen understanding and respect for cultural diversity and link it to the environment, also through the discussion and demonstration of the relations between traditional and indigenous knowledge and nature conservation. This will enable participants to critically reflect on their perceptions, attitudes and actions, and further develop the skills needed to implement activities in their day-to-day work in international voluntary service organisations, both at the local and global level.

The project will combine training activities, reflection, exchange of good practice, project visits and field experience for a total duration of 15 days, and is organised in 3 different phases: in the first phase (21-25 August), participants will gather in Singburi, Thailand, for an intensive four-day training on cultural diversity and environmental sustainability. In the second phase (26 to 31 August), participants – divided into smaller groups – will travel to their field projects in Thailand and one project in Cambodia, where they will be hosted by voluntary service organisations, with the objective of finding local and global answers to the challenges of climate change and nature conservation in these very diverse contexts. In the third and final phase (1-4 September), participants will meet again in Thailand to share and evaluate their field visits.

This 8<sup>th</sup> AEYVE will involve up to 25 participants - active volunteers, staff and Board members of voluntary service organisations implementing projects with an international dimension. The applicants should be aged between 18 and 30, nationals of ASEM countries, and able to understand and discuss complex issues in English. They should have experience in the fields of environmental sustainability and international voluntary service and/or be interested in working in these areas. Last but not least, they should be nominated by a national and international organisation or network from the ASEM countries<sup>1</sup>.

The organisers of the project will be responsible for covering all local costs starting from the arrival day (20<sup>th</sup> August) to the departure day (4<sup>th</sup> September), including accommodation, meals and local transportation as well as transportation to and from the hosting projects during the second phase. A partial travel reimbursement will also be provided in order to support part of the international travel costs, covering 200 EURO for participants travelling from Asia and 350 EURO for participants travelling from Europe.

Interested parties should send the completed Application Form for participants (see attachment), through their sending organisation, no later than **19 June 2009**. Applicants are requested NOT to make any travel arrangements until they receive an official confirmation from the organisers. For any further information and to send your application, write to: [ccivs@unesco.org](mailto:ccivs@unesco.org)

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<sup>1</sup> The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation addressing political, economic and cultural issues. It brings together a constituency of forty-five partners: Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.