



PRESS RELEASE

info@asef.org
Tel. +65 6874 9727
Fax. +65 6872 1207

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Promoting the international mobility of artists between Asia and Europe

Singapore - Together with International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) (www.ifacca.org) and National Arts Council of Singapore (NAC) (www.nac.gov.sg), ASEF will co-organise Asia-Europe Arts Councils Network (ASEARTS), as a back-to-back conference with 2nd World Summit on the Arts and Culture (www.artsummit.org).

These two events will provide an extraordinary networking and learning experience for all delegates as it will bring together government arts and culture funding agencies, arts policy makers and researchers, arts educators and administrators.

We expect to develop ASEARTS into a sustainable network among Asian and European national art promotion agencies, with the objective of laying the fundamental and much-needed foundation and infrastructure to promote greater artist exchange between Europe and Asia. The theme for the 1st ASEARTS Meeting is *international mobility of artists between Asia and Europe*. This is a timely topic, since European Union is stepping up its priorities in the field of culture, and focusing on the question of mobility of artists and works of art, and of artistic ideas.

A press conference will be held on 27th November at 17h30 at Salon II, Conrad Centennial Hotel, Singapore with the presence of following speakers:

- Amb. Delfin Colomé, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation
- Ms. Patricia Quinn, Irish Arts Council and IFACCA Executive Board representative
- Ms. Sarah Gardner, Executive Director, International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA)
- Mrs. Chulamanee Chartsuwan, Director of Cultural Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation

Please RSVP to Jessica Yom (jessicayom@asef.org) or Wendy Lee (wendyle@asef.org/ Tel. 68749722) before 24 November for registration.

Asia-Europe Arts Promotion Agencies Network (ASEARTS)

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) recognises culture as one of the key instruments for promoting understanding and co-operation between its member countries. ASEF has already implemented a few concrete projects on contemporary arts (dance, cinema, visual arts, etc.) with the focus on the exchange of artists. Less efforts have been made so far with regards to the exchange of arts managers and arts policy makers in order to lay necessary, basic and much-needed foundation for artist exchange.

ASEF thus welcomes the professional initiative of the Irish Arts Council on the organization of Asia-Europe Arts Promotion Agencies Network (ASEARTS). This initiative is timely, considering that the European Union is visibly emphasising on the importance of energising the field of culture, focussing, in particular (following the Directive of the Council of Ministers of Culture in December 2002), on the question of mobility – of artists and works of art, and of artistic ideas.

A programme to support artists' mobility is proposed as a most appropriate platform for ASEF co-operation in the field of contemporary culture for a number of reasons.

1. It is cross-sectoral – that is, it is capable of involving practitioners in all branches of the arts – architecture, dance, literature, film, music, opera, theatre, visual arts (in all their forms);
2. It is capable of being administered according to collectively agreed standards by a variety of institutional structures, private and/or public;
3. It can be seen as a phase of action research – say over three to five years – which would build informal networks and relationships, which would in turn form the basis for a future, second generation programme.

The steps required to take this further would be:

1. To develop consensus around the strategic requirements of a contemporary strand to cultural co-operation
2. To explore the feasibility of a scheme to promote interaction, exchange and mutual understanding among artists in the member states, and
3. To eventually prepare an outline model for co-operation, and resource mobilization, and to agree on programme implementation with evaluation mechanism.

ASEF was created in February 1997 by members of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). It is located in Singapore and reports to a Board of 26 Governors comprising representatives from: Austria, Belgium, Brunei, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam and the European Commission.

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Programme

**Asia-Europe Arts Promotion Agencies Network (ASEARTS) Conference:
International mobility of artists between Asia and Europe
27 November 2003
Conrad Centennial Hotel, Singapore**

- 09.00-09.30 hrs. Welcome speeches by
- Ambassador Delfin Colomé, ASEF Executive Director
 - Mr. Lee Suan Hiang, Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council, Singapore
 - Ms. Patricia Quinn, Irish Arts Council and IFACCA Executive Board representative
- 09.30-11.00 hrs. Session I: Introductions: models of cultural policy provision represented at the meeting.
- Objective: To build understanding of the common purposes of the organisations present at the meeting.
- Presentations by:
- 1 Mr. Komatsu Jun'etsu, Managing Director, Asia Center, Japan Foundation, Japan
 - 2 Ms. Marja-Leena Pétas, Senior Advisor, Arts Council of Finland
 - 3 Ms. Carol Tan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council, Singapore
- Discussion moderated by Dr. Michael de la Fontaine, Director, Goethe Institute, Singapore (*tbc*)
- 11.00-11.30 hrs. **Coffee break**

- 11.30-13.00 hrs. Session II: Current status of cooperation between Asian and European Arts and Culture institutions: case studies of bilateral and multi-lateral co-operation.
- Objectives:
1. To provide evidence of effective action to date;
 2. To develop consensus on strategic requirements of greater cultural co-operation;
- Presentations by:
- 1 Mr. Jaume Giné, Secretary General, Casa Asia, Spain
 - 2 Mr. Zhu Qi, Deputy Director of Division of Policy Research and General Planning of Bureau for External Cultural Relations of Ministry of Culture, China (*tbc*)
 - 3 Mr. Adam Jeanes and Mr. Tim Doling, Visiting Arts, UK
 - 4 Mr. Nick Tsoutas, Executive Director, Artspace, Australia (*tbc*)
(special invitee of IFACCA)
- Discussion moderated by Mr. Apinan Poshyananda, Director General, Ministry of Culture, Thailand
- 13.00-14.00 hrs. **Lunch break**
- 14.00-15.30 hrs. Session III: International mobility of artists between Asia and Europe: problems, prospects and actions needed.
- Objectives:
1. To examine the importance of this issue from the perspectives of the participants;
 2. To explore the feasibility of a pilot scheme to promote interaction and exchange among artists, with emphasis on interaction on policy level in order to lay necessary infrastructure and policy convergence in support of the mobility of artists.
 3. To outline model for cooperation, resource mobilization and programme implementation
- Interlocution by:
- Mr. Rod Fisher, International Intelligence on Culture, UK
- 15.30 -16.00 hrs **Coffee break**
- 16.00-17.30 hrs. General discussion and concluding session: How should we go from Singapore?
- Discussion moderated by Ms. Patricia Quinn, Irish Arts Council and IFACCA Executive Board representative
- 17.30-18.00 hrs Press Conference
(Venue: Salon II)