

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

8 November 2013
Singapore

MEDIA CONTACT

Debasmita DASGUPTA (Ms)

Press Manager

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

E debasmita.dasgupta@asef.org

T +65 6874 9739

www.asef.org

MORE INFORMATION

<http://bit.ly/14Zw2wj>

**SUBSCRIBE TO ASEF
PRESS RELEASES:**



How can national health systems better integrate migrants' health needs?

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Fondazione Iniziative e Studi sulla Multietnicità (ISMU), with the support of the Milan Municipality, co-hosted a Public Talk 'Health of Chinese and Filipino Migrants in Milan: Present Challenges Potential Opportunities' on Wednesday, 9 October 2013 in the Palazzo Sormani – Sala del Grechetto.

The ASEF and Fondazione ISMU presented findings from a study, 'The Health Dimension of Asian Migration to Europe', during this event. This study was a joint research commissioned by ASEF and undertaken by Fondazione ISMU (Italy) and the Yuchengco Center (Philippines).

One of the major findings of the study indicated that in Spain and Italy, Chinese and Filipino migrants rarely make full use of available healthcare services, even though both of these countries have health services that are relatively widely available to migrants compared to other EU member states. Some of the major barriers migrants face in making use of healthcare services in the receiving countries are: 1) health service providers' lack of understanding of migrants' health-seeking behaviour, 2) lack of intercultural competencies among healthcare providers as well as migrants, and 3) limited opportunities for migrants to engage in health policy development.

To address these issues, the team of Italian and Filipino researchers involved in ASEF's joint research formulated the following recommendations:

1. Medical pluralism: Regularising Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the European countries as well as enhancing Filipino migrants' acceptance of prescribed western medicine. The latter can be achieved by providing comprehensive information on the medicines available in Europe.
2. Intercultural competencies: Improving communication gaps between healthcare service providers and migrants through effective intercultural communication skills and linguistic competences.
3. Inclusive policy process: Engaging migrant groups in planning and implementing promotive and preventive health services.

For more information and the full report, please visit <http://bit.ly/14Zw2wj>

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, sustainable development, economy, governance and public health. ASEF is a not-for-profit, intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 600 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 17,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org



The **Fondazione ISMU**, formerly Fondazione Cariplo -ISMU since 1991, is an autonomous and independent organization promoting studies, research and projects on multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society, and focusing in particular on the phenomenon of international migrations. ISMU presents itself as a service structure open to cooperation with other institutions, public organizations, the world of voluntary work and non-profit organizations, school institutes of any educational area and level, and scientific institutions both in Italy and abroad.

For more information, please visit www.ismu.org



This event was supported by the **Milan Municipality**.



ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the **Government of Japan**.