Leadership in Action

Culturetelling: Anthology of ASEM Folk Tales
About the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4)

The 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4) is a 10-month long youth leadership programme connected with the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13) in Cambodia. The ASEFYLS4 focuses on ‘Sustainable Development in a post-COVID-19 World’ and incorporates 3 spheres for youth leadership:

1) self-leadership (you)
2) team leadership (we) and
3) societal leadership (all).

To demonstrate the youth’s role in driving Sustainable Development, the programme encourages participants to collaborate & volunteer on meaningful community projects with an Asia-Europe twist. Based on the four ASEFYLS4 focus areas (SDG3, SDG4, SDG8 and SDG13), participants are allocated to specific working groups and work on “Leadership in Action” activities. In total, the ASEFYLS4 facilitates 15 community projects, each led by 1 ASEFYLS4 Navigator and supported by up to 10 participants from different Asian & European countries. See the list and outlines of all “Leadership in Action Projects” here.

About the Leadership in Action Project #7

Culturetelling: Anthology of ASEM Folk Tales

Background

Stories and folk tales like epics, fables, fairy tales, legends & myths are the heartbeat of our cultures. They capture traditional beliefs, customs and knowledge and hand them over to the next generation to learn from and further develop their meanings.

The author J. E. Chamberlain asked back in 1943: “If this is your land, where are your stories?” Sharing stories between cultures not only promotes better knowledge and understanding of each others’ culture, but also reveals commonalities and joint values to move towards a more connected future.

Outline and Objectives

The Leadership in Action Project “Culturetelling: Anthology of ASEM Folk Tales” promotes the cultural diversity of ASEM countries and is a journey through the literary heritage of Asian and European societies.

Participants collect and share traditional stories and folk tales from their respective countries under the umbrella term ‘resilience’. By retelling and supporting these stories that shaped values and people’s lives with visual materials through social media, the project aims to strengthen resilience among the audience through shared storytelling.

Languages, written or spoken, are the heart of culture and traditions. To give a deeper insight into the cultures of ASEM countries, the stories will be shared in the original language and/or dialect supported by audio files as well as the English translation.
Planned Activities

Research, Peer-to-Peer Discussions and Experts’ Input on the concept of Resilience and the Role of Storytelling in building moral and resilience in society

Research and Compilation of Folktales across ASEM countries with the theme on resilience and analysis of common concepts

Development of Online Platforms and Multi-media Production of ASEM stories

Expected Results & Outcomes

Tangible

‘ASEM Resilience Map’ Comments based on the results of the peer research and experts’ inputs

Production of 10 ASEM Resilience Stories and Illustrations from Austria, Cambodia, China, Germany, Laos, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden and Thailand with illustrations and commentaries

Online Platforms for Promotion and Knowledge Sharing

Instagram: @asemfolktales
Website: https://asemfolktales.wixsite.com/asemfolktales

Intangible

⇒ Promotion of Intercultural Knowledge and Understanding, including continuation of the tradition of storytelling alive

⇒ Learning opportunity for various ASEM languages and possibly local dialects

⇒ Opportunity of (mental/emotional) support to an online audience on the theme of “resilience”
Project Team

Project Leads

Spain    Ms Ruth Vera Delgado, Recent Graduate, Rey Juan Carlos University
Austria  Ms Sandra Wohlauf, Graduate Student, University of Vienna
Netherlands Ms Helen Nagelhout, Master Student, University of Humanistic Studies

Cambodia Mr Dechkunn Chhay, Research and Communication Intern, Open Development Cambodia
Cambodia Ms Sivgech Lo, Student, Royal University of Phnom Penh
Germany  Ms Stephanie Veith, Student, Brandenburg Technical University
Korea    Ms Shangyoon Park, Analyst, Doosan Corporation
Lao PDR  Ms Pakham Changvisomid, Project Coordinator, Asian Development with the Disabled Persons (ADDP)
New Zealand Mr Taylor Mclaren, Student, Auckland University of Technology
Pakistan Ms Syeda Eesha Zainab, Student, Forman Christian College University
Sweden  Mr Geronimo Fager Clemente, Student, Stockholm University
Thailand Mr Voradon Lerdrat, Student, Pompeu Fabra University

Further Information

www.asef.org

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To get in contact with the Project Team:
asefyls@asef.org