4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit Leadership in Action Project

Culturetelling: Anthology of ASEM Folk Tales
That’s Us

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Agenda

- Who are we?
- What is our project?
- Culture/Storytelling and SDG4 in a Post-Covid World?
- What are our results and outputs so far?
- Outlook for the future?
OUR PROJECT
Our Project

- is a journey through the literary heritage of Asian and European societies
- aims to find common values rooted in our societies and translated through time by traditional folktales
- wants to deepen intercultural understanding between ASEM countries by sharing our similarities (even in the differences)
WHY DO STORY-TELLING & FOLKTALES MATTER?
Storytelling ...

- is a powerful and effective way to carry on our messages
- promotes creativity and imagination on how we can educate any lessons
- enables us to develop a deeper understanding of a certain issue in a more lightening, fun, and engaging manner

Folktales ...

- and other stories like epics, fables, fairy tales, legends & myths are the heartbeat of our cultures
- were used to help people develop a sense of moral behavior in society
- capture traditional beliefs, customs and knowledge and hand them over to the next generation to learn from and further develop their meanings.

'Culturetelling'
Why the 'Resilience' theme?

Resilience is not a commodity you are born with, waiting silently on tap. It is self-manufactured painstakingly over time by working through your problems and never giving up, even in the face of difficulty or failure

– Lorii Myers

'Resilience' during and in a Post Covid-19 World

- We aim strengthen resilience of our audience through our own storytelling, as well as gain and share a deeper understanding of the different cultural conceptions of resilience across the ASEM countries
FINDING RESILIENCE ...
What does resilience mean for you?

- bamboo
- endurance
- humans
- flexibility
- shockproof
- strength
- thriving society
- sustainable
- opens to transformation
- standing your ground
- perseverance
You are resilient when you ...

- able to continue my life and have the capacity to be shockproof at any circumstances. Today, we as youth, are still left-out from many discussions, ironically, about our future. Youth has the ability to be critical and see the bigger picture.

- are open to new ideas and visions, but also know your own values, weaknesses and strenghts and try to balance it all.

- feel that when going gets tough, the tough gets going.

- train your body, mind and soul to focus

- Je leven leeft en zelf je houding kiest ten opzichte van de tegenslag en het lijden dat je onvermijdelijk tegenkomt

- Pull through and overcome challenges or even simply your own fears and discouragement

- are able to keep going in the face of adversity.

- Manage to pick up the pieces and move on. There is not point to reminisce the point is to move forward.
IN FOLKTALES ACROSS EUROPE AND ASIA
Bounce Back from Hardships

The 'Dear' Augustin

There are many parallels between the story of the dear Augustin and the current ongoing pandemic, showing us that the hard times we are experiencing now are not one of a kind - pandemics, quarantines, even bars and restaurants closing and people lamenting about that, all of this has happened before in our history, yet we as a society have **bounced back from the hardships** and managed to find our way back to normalcy after the non-normal. [...]
Bounce Back from Hardships

The Great Boon-khun of Pho Sop (Rice Goddess)

[...] here is no direct translation of the word “resilience” in Thai language. However, if resilience is defined as the quality of being able to return to previous good condition after difficulties,
The Wolf and Shrimps

In Khmer, there is no direct translation for resilience, but it can refer to patience or how tolerant we are in a given situation.

The shrimp's patience with the wicked wolf who intended to eat them all alive is portrayed in the story. Despite their small size, they planned a strategy to divert the wolf's attention away. The story, in my view, is about how clever and resilient the shrimp was in the face of danger.
... when after seven years she realizes what she has done. How difficult it must have been to return to her uncle! And then she has to pray for years to be forgiven, but she perseveres. To persevere, despite everything, is a sign of resilience for me.
Flexibility, Open to Transformation

How the name Munich originated

[...] this story shows how important resilience is in order to maybe get hurt in the beginning but afterwards being able to create something new.

Illustration by @crapeesha
Website

ASEM Folktales collects and shares traditional folktales from around 51 Asian and European countries, being partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Through the literary heritage of the two regions, ASEM Folktales aims to promote cultural diversity and mutual understanding among ASEM citizens.

Latest in Our Tales Collection

Latest Reviews
Asian Collection
Australia | Bangladesh | Brunei Darussalam | Cambodia | China
India | Indonesia | Japan | Kazakhstan | Laos | Malaysia
Mongolia | Myanmar | New Zealand | Pakistan | the Philippines
Singapore | South Korea | Thailand | Vietnam

Search for Tales in Our Collection
Search for tales

Explore Tales by Keywords
Asia (14) | Europe (10)
Christianity (8) | Church (8)
Cambodia (4) | China (4)

Punjabi Folktale
This Punjabi folktale is not just a love story. It is said that this story

The Great Boon-khun* of Pho Sop (Rice Goddess)
A tale of the Rice Goddess, narrated in...

Syeda Eesha Zainab
Nov 7 • 11 min

voradonlerdrat
Nov 6 • 3 min
Language Options


ASEM Folktales
The Wolf and Shrimps

Audio Supported Storytelling.
ASEM Folktales
In conjunction with the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting & the ASEFYLS4, we are sharing folktales from the 51 ASEM countries to promote cultural understanding

linktr.ee/asemfolktales
A large drought caused the pond where a turtle lived to dry up. His two swan friends told him of another pond 10 minutes away as the crow flies. Turtle told them that it would take him five months to walk that far. The swans handed a plan to carry the turtle between them but warned the turtle he must not open his mouth.

[...]
WHY DOES IT MATTER?
Intangible results of our project.

- Expanding on cultural understanding between ASEM countries and finding the common in the differences
- Learning process of the difference concept of ‘resilience’ in different countries and cultures
- Learning opportunity for various ASEM languages and possibly local dialects
- Continuing and keeping the culture and tradition of storytelling alive
- Bestowing the readers through the stories with a renewed feeling of resilience (‘we can do this!’) to build on during these hard times as well as for the Post Covid-19 world
The journey has just begun!

We are looking forward to...

- Further analysing common concepts and understanding common roots and conceptions of resilience across ASEM
- Expand our archive of ASEM stories
- Creating a discussion on transcultural understandings represented in folktales
- Adding further categories to 'resilience'
- Podcasts, videos, collaborations
- Expert insights

....and much more!
Support and Credits

- **ASEF**

- **Illustrations**
  - Eesha Dawoon
    - Instagram: @crapeesha
  - Julie Lai
    - Instagram: @julieoolie_
    - Website: www.laijulie.com
Our 10 stories brought to life ...
Thank you so much for your attention and this great experience!
Do you want to contribute a tale &/or personal illustration from your country?

Send us an email (asemfolktales@gmail.com) or drop us a message on instagram!