



ASIA-EUROPE  
FOUNDATION

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

[www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)





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# ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

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, governance & economy, media, public health and sustainable development.

Founded in 1997, ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. It is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Together with partner organisations, ASEF has conducted more than 250 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 40,000 Asians and Europeans have participated in its activities, and reached a much wider audience through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

01

## OUR MANDATE

To promote mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges (Dublin Principles).

02

## OUR VISION

Our vision is a world in which Asians and Europeans shape the future together, respectfully, fairly, and sustainably.

03

## OUR MISSION

We enhance intellectual, cultural, and people to people exchange between Asia and Europe on a peer-to-peer basis, with mutual respect and understanding. ASEF will play its part to maintain the momentum of the two regions through relevant activities.

4

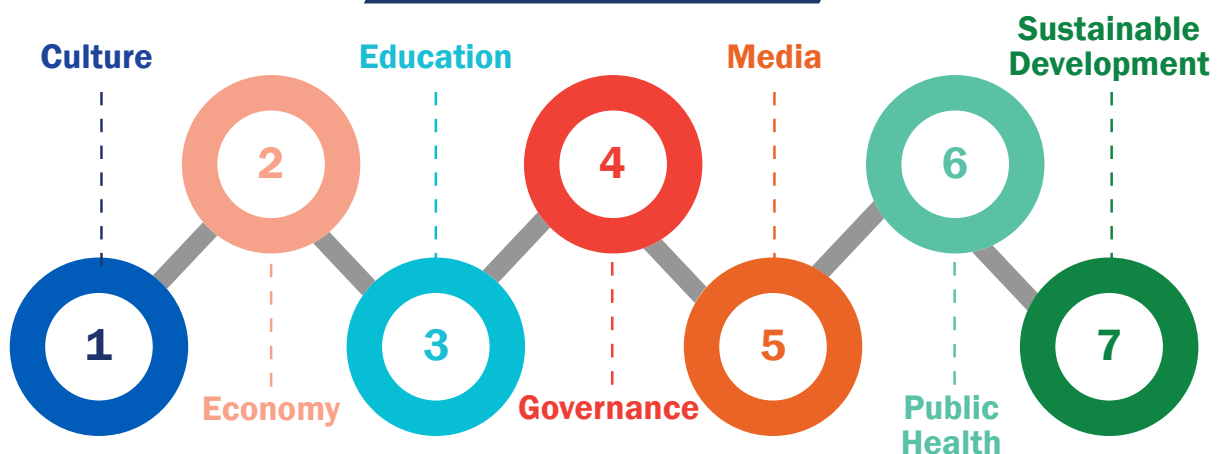
## OVERVIEW

- 1 Publicly funded by voluntary contributions from members
- 2 Reports to a Board of Governors
- 3 Based in Singapore

## CORE VALUES

- ✓ Diversity
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Learning
- ✓ Professionalism
- ✓ Accountability

## 7 THEMATIC AREAS



# ASEF 3-Year Strategy 2023-2026

At the 44th BoG in Barcelona, Spain, the new ASEF 3-Year Strategy 2023-2026 was adopted with objectives and lines of actions.



## Strengthen Intellectual Dialogue

Create a new project and reinforce existing projects in the field of intellectual exchange to promote peer-to-peer dialogue on pressing challenges for Asia-Europe relations.

# 2



## Build Alliances

Collaborate with different partner organisations on cross-cutting topics such as climate change to add value and avoid duplication

# 4



## Invest in digital transformation

Continue to invest in digital transformation to enable greater efficiency and productivity, and meet the requirements of the AI-era.



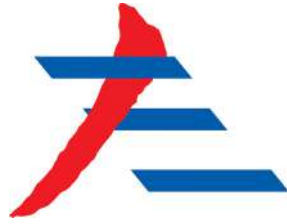
## Connect Civil Society and Governments

Attract partnerships so that our activities reach wider networks, enhance visibility and create stronger links for connections.



## Secure external funding

Cement collaborations with public and private institutions and record both in-kind and financial contributions.



# ASIA-EUROPE MEETING

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe.

ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. Its foremost event, the ASEM Summit, is a biennial meeting between the Heads of State and Government, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. In addition, ASEM Ministers & Senior Officials also meet in their respective sectoral dialogues.

The initial ASEM Partnership in 1996 consisted of 15 EU Member States, 7 ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. Today, ASEM comprises **53 Partners**: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.

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Through its informal process based on equal partnership and enhancing mutual understanding, ASEM facilitates and stimulates progress but does not seek to duplicate bilateral and other multilateral relationships between Asia and Europe.



*1st ASEM Summit Group Photo, 1996, Bangkok, Thailand*

# ASEM PARTNERS

## ASIA

ASEAN Secretariat	China	Korea	New Zealand	Thailand
Australia	India	Lao PDR	Pakistan	Viet Nam
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	
Brunei Darussalam	Japan	Mongolia	Russian Federation	
Cambodia	Kazakhstan	Myanmar	Singapore	

## EUROPE

Austria	Estonia	Ireland	Norway	Sweden
Belgium	European Union	Italy	Poland	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Finland	Latvia	Portugal	United Kingdom
Croatia	France	Lithuania	Romania	
Cyprus	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovakia	
Czech Republic	Greece	Malta	Slovenia	
Denmark	Hungary	Netherlands	Spain	

### OVERVIEW



Dialogue & Cooperation



Informal Political Process



Strengthening links between Asia & Europe

### PILLARS



Political



Economic and Financial



Cultural and Educational

# ASEF BOARD OF GOVERNORS



*ASEF 44th BoG Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, 6-7 July 2023*

<b>ASEAN Secretariat</b>	HE Ekkaphab PHANTHAVONG
<b>Australia</b>	Ms Angela ROBINSON
<b>Austria</b>	Ms Bita RASOULIAN
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Mr MD Rais Hasan SAROWER Mr Khandker MASUDUL ALAM (until March 2023)
<b>Belgium</b>	Ambassador Colette TAQUET
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	Ms Sia AI CHING Ms Megawati MANAN (until June 2023)
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Ms Snezhana YOVEVA-DIMITROVA
<b>Cambodia</b>	Ms TOUCH Sopharath
<b>China</b>	Mr JIANG Duan Ambassador ZHANG Xiaokang (until June 2023)
<b>Croatia</b>	Ms Dunja SIČAJA Ambassador Dražen MARGETA (until October 2023)
<b>Cyprus</b>	High Commissioner Agis LOIZOU
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Ambassador Michaela FROŇKOVÁ
<b>Denmark</b>	Ambassador Sandra Jensen LANDI
<b>Estonia</b>	Ms Heli ARU-CHABILAN
<b>European Union</b>	Mr Ioannis GIOGKARAKIS-ARGYROPOULOS
<b>Finland</b>	Ambassador Juha MARKKANEN Ambassador Antti VASKA (until December 2023)
<b>France</b>	Ambassador Hervé LADSOUS
<b>Germany</b>	Ambassador Dr Norbert RIEDEL
<b>Greece</b>	Ambassador Dr Sotirios MOUSOURIS
<b>Hungary</b>	Ambassador Judit PACH

<b>India</b>	High Commissioner Dr Shilpak AMBULE High Commissioner Mr Periasamy KUMARAN (until December 2023)
<b>Indonesia</b>	Ambassador SOEMADI Brotodiningrat
<b>Ireland</b>	Ms Maeve GALLAGHER
<b>Italy</b>	Ambassador Dante BRANDI Ambassador Mario VATTANI (until September 2023)
<b>Japan</b>	Ambassador Kuni SATO
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Ambassador Askar KUTTYKADAM Ambassador Arken ARYSTANOV (until March 2023)
<b>Korea</b>	Ambassador CHOI Sung-joo
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Mr Kingphokeo PHOMMAHAXAY
<b>Latvia</b>	Prof Inna ŠTEINBUKA
<b>Lithuania</b>	Ambassador Darius GAIDYS
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Mr Robert GOEBBELS
<b>Malaysia</b>	Mr Mohd Hasril ABDUL HAMID Mr Ahmad Kamrizamil MOHD RIZA (until December 2023)
<b>Malta</b>	High Commissioner Clifford BORG-MARKS
<b>Mongolia</b>	Ambassador Enkhbayar SOSORBARAM
<b>Myanmar</b>	Mr Soe MYINT
<b>Netherlands</b>	Mr Ernesto BRAAM
<b>New Zealand</b>	High Commissioner Jo TYNDALL
<b>Norway</b>	Ambassador Eivind Sigvart HOMME
<b>Pakistan</b>	High Commissioner Rukhsana AFZAAL
<b>Philippines</b>	Ambassador Medardo G. MACARAIG Dr Emmanuel FERNANDEZ (until February 2023)
<b>Poland</b>	Ambassador Magdalena BOGDZIEWICZ
<b>Portugal</b>	Ambassador Mário Miranda DUARTE
<b>Romania</b>	Ambassador Iulian BUGA
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Ambassador Nikolay KUDASHEV
<b>Singapore</b>	Prof Leo Wee Hin TAN
<b>Slovakia</b>	Ambassador Denisa FRELICHOVÁ
<b>Slovenia</b>	Ms Maja BALANT SLOBODJANAC Ms Petra KEŽMAN (until April 2023)
<b>Spain</b>	Mr Javier PARRONDO
<b>Sweden</b>	Ms Jenny EGERMARK
<b>Switzerland</b>	Ambassador Frank GRÜTTER
<b>Thailand</b>	Ms Chulamaneer CHARTSUWAN Dr Darnp SUKONTASAP (until June 2023)
<b>United Kingdom</b>	High Commissioner Kara OWEN CVO
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Ambassador Doan Xuan HUNG

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ASEF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the ASEF Board of Governors (ASEFBoG), I would like to extend warm greetings to all.

The past year was a challenging one. As we finally emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to face the consequences of disruption in our lives. After more than 25 years carrying out its mandate to bring the peoples of Asia and Europe closer, **ASEF's role and potential have evolved**. In today's complex and interconnected world, the necessity to build trust and enhance understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe has been more felt than ever.

Promoting closer ties and relationships between the peoples of both our regions is the foundation that will enable us to navigate through challenging geopolitical landscapes, sometimes marked with uncertainties or even conflicts and war. As we live through an era of growing polarization, we need to know-how to advance multilateralism and leverage a multipolar world, characterized by shifting power dynamics.

**ASEF's role contributing to multilateralism** cannot be underestimated, while the halt of ASEM process persists. We recognize the pivotal role that track II diplomacy plays in advancing international cooperation to address common global challenges. ASEF is a vital platform in the field as its membership consists of more than 50 countries across Asia and Europe and two regional international organisations, the EU and ASEAN. Therefore, ASEF is instrumental in providing a platform for informal dialogue and cooperation among diverse stakeholders, including government officials, academics, civil society representatives and even business leaders.

ASEF has two key roles to play. On the one hand, as a facilitator of **intellectual dialogue** by contributing to developments across different fields and tackling the notion of exchange between Asia and Europe in a peer-to-peer, mutually beneficial engagement. On the other hand, as a **builder of alliances and stimulator of permanent networks**, by promoting networking and relationship building, leveraging synergies, and pooling resources to expand the reach and impact in the field.

The ASEF Board of Governors reiterated its willingness to strategically strengthen ASEF's position at the centre of intellectual, people-to-people and cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe through the adoption of the **ASEF 3-year Strategy** at the 44th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting in 2023 held in Barcelona, Spain.

The 45th ASEF Board of Governors will take **a further step towards ASEF's future** by conducting in depth discussion on how the ASEF Board of Governors can ensure more effective deliberations among ASEF Members to preserve the momentum for dialogue and cooperation between Asians and Europeans and **elect the 9th Executive Director** and Deputy Executive Director based on the Dublin Agreed Principles.

Let us continue to work together to build bridges between Asia and Europe for a more unified, peaceful, and tolerant world. I look forward to continuing to be part of this journey in 2024.

**Mr MD Rais Hasan SAROWER**  
Chair, ASEF Board of Governors 2024

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on the journey through 2023, we are looking back to a year full of **challenges and opportunities**.

In our ever-changing world, full of unprecedented challenges such as geopolitical disruption, climate change, emergence of artificial intelligence, and spread of infectious diseases, there are more than ever rich opportunities for Asians and Europeans to work together for the betterment of the world through the peer-to-peer partnership that ASEF represents.

Despite the **ASEM Process** being on hold, ASEF remained resilient and unwavering in its mission to work hand in hand with our partners to foster closer ties between Asians and Europeans as well as strengthening itself to adapt to the rapidly changing environment through rules-based management. **Complacency was not our answer**. To successfully navigate this dynamic landscape, we invested in a united and innovative approach.

In March, ASEF celebrated its **25th anniversary** with the presence at the premise of ASEF with Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Ambassadors and Governors from ASEF Member countries.

In May, ASEF, for the first time in its history, was invited to speak at the official stakeholder hearing for the preparation of the **UN General Assembly High Level Meeting** on Universal Health Coverage in September.

At the 44th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting held in Barcelona in July, significant progress was made through the endorsement of the **3-year ASEF Strategy**. This strategic compass sets the direction on how to make ASEF more relevant, agile, and autonomous.

To make ASEF **more relevant**, we positioned ASEF as a **facilitator of intellectual dialogue** between Asia and Europe. The Asia-Europe Dialogue Forum emerges as a new initiative to connect academics, experts and thought leaders to discuss and share nuanced understandings of pressing global concerns. ASEF operations will be aligned under one common umbrella, the **ASEF Outlook Report**, which provides a clear understanding of the current needs for Asia-Europe to be addressed by ASEF.

We also decided to **strengthen our projects** in the areas of intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Among the many accomplishments of 2023, our **key achievements** include the successful execution of flagship projects like the ASEF Young Leaders Summit in Spain in September and the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival in Singapore in October. These initiatives reinforced ASEF's commitment to advancing mutual understanding and building meaningful connections between the people of the two regions.

In cooperation with the WHO, ASEF continued its on-the-ground support in Europe to **provide aid to those in need**. Additionally, in November, we forged a new partnership in Asia with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, aiming to improve the readiness for the outbreak of infectious diseases.

To make ASEF **more agile**, we continue to invest in **digitalisation**. We are about to launch our "Customer Relationship Management System", which will support us in our outreach activities, and we will start to work on a multi-year project, the Integrated Project Budget Management System, which will reduce the administrative workload, enhance our operations, and increase our efficiency.

To make ASEF **more autonomous**, we are conceptualizing a framework to **generate additional funding** including through partnerships with the private sector to allow us to further our mission and reach even more individuals across Asia and Europe.

Going forward, the ASEF Strategy is a **commitment** to resilience, adaptability, and continued collaboration. The dynamic partnership between Asia and Europe is shifting towards a peer-to-peer model, emphasising shared responsibilities to tackle common challenges. Amidst the diversity of perspectives, the need for dialogue and cooperation is ever-growing, resulting in an even more pivotal role for ASEF in the coming years.

As we embark on this new chapter of our journey, we extend our **deepest gratitude** to our members, partners, and participants for their unwavering cooperation, trust, and support. Together, let us create new possibilities, shared achievements, and lasting connections in the constantly evolving landscape of Asia-Europe relations.

**Ambassador MORIKAWA Toru**  
**ASEF Executive Director**

**The Executive Office (EO) supports the work of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director (Senior Management) in ensuring that ASEF carries out its mandate to bring Asia and Europe closer together.**

**The EO is responsible for determining ASEF's strategic objectives as well as for enhancing its performance.**

**Management decisions based on the policy guidelines set out by the ASEF Board of Governors are implemented through the Executive Office. In 2023, the ASEF Board of Governors approved ASEF's 3-year strategic plan (2023-2026) to be able to respond to the rapidly and fundamentally changing environment.**

**The Executive Office ensures smooth and efficient co-ordination between ASEF and its stakeholders as well as between ASEF's Departments and Task Forces.**

**The Executive Office is driving ASEF's digital transformation to enable greater efficiency and productivity with streamlined processes across the whole organization.**

The Executive Office also drives the implementation of activities, which enhance dialogue and exchange between Asia and Europe, and organises activities for Senior Management to facilitate the exploration of opportunities for potential collaborations, fostering strategic partnerships, and establishing visibility for ASEF through customised networking.

To accomplish its mission, the EO includes a diverse team of dedicated professionals across several areas: digital transformation, relationship with funders, and human resources.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICE

## 44TH ASEF BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING (BOG44)

6-7 July 2023, Barcelona, Spain

On 6-7 July 2023, ASEF Governors from across Asia and Europe, including from the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered in Barcelona, Spain for the 44th ASEF Board of Governors annual meeting. The main outcome of the discussion was the adoption of ASEF's Strategic Plan 2023-2026, which responds to the new demands of the evolving dynamics of the relations between Asia and Europe. In the new Strategy, ASEF Members aim at adjusting ASEF's mission to the current realities, leveraging opportunities and devising solutions to further connect Asia and Europe.

[44th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting](#)



## ASIA-EUROPE DIALOGUE SERIES - EXPLORING LINGUISTIC INFLUENCES THROUGH A MANUSCRIPT OF MALAYO-PORTUGUESE PANTUNS

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31 August 2023, Singapore

The “Asia-Europe Dialogue Series: Exploring linguistic influences through a Manuscript of Malayo-Portuguese Pantuns” was the inaugural event of the Asia-Europe Dialogue Series, and it was organised in partnership with the Embassy of Portugal in Singapore and counted with the presence of ASEF Governor and Ambassador of Portugal to Singapore, HE Mario Miranda Duarte, and Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore, HE Suryo Pratomo as distinguished guests of honour.

This event took place in the framework of the new strategic direction for the Asia-Europe Foundation as it strengthens ASEF's position as a facilitator of intellectual dialogue between Asia and Europe and builds on the gradual shift to a new peer-to-peer partnership between Asians and Europeans.

[Asia-Europe Dialogue Series: Exploring linguistic influences through a Manuscript of Malayo-Portuguese Pantuns](#)





# COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

The Communications Department (COM) promotes Asia-Europe cooperation by advancing awareness and knowledge about ASEF, ASEM and key issues in Asia-Europe relations. Aimed at a diverse range of constituencies, including the media and general public, COM’s activities foster greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe in the media space. Media is one of 7 thematic areas of work in ASEF. Through its media projects, COM establishes unique networking platforms for the exchange of views and ideas as well as cooperation among media professionals from Asia and Europe. These projects address themes aligned with the ASEM agenda, examining issues relevant to Asia-Europe relations, challenges faced by the media industry, as well as the professional development of media personnel.

In addition to these project roles, COM is responsible for corporate or strategic communications. In this function, COM serves as the custodian for ASEF’s brand, identity and messages, provides support on thought leadership when necessary and organises outreach events for key stakeholders. Furthermore, it drives ASEF’s messaging and builds its presence on social media through management of digital assets, and coordination of communication with ASEF project departments and ASEM-related bodies.

In 2023, as a project department, COM focused on the ASEMInfoBoard. It is a flagship project mandated by the ASEM Summits and Ministerial Meetings and serves as the strategic communication platform to enhance the visibility of the ASEM Process in the Asia-Europe context.



## ASEM INFOBOARD (AIB)

Throughout 2023

The [ASEMInfoBoard.org](https://ASEMInfoBoard.org) (AIB) AIB has implemented significant improvements aimed at enhancing visitor engagement and enriching the learning experience about the ASEM Process. From a static notice board, we have introduced animated content on the ASEM story and an interactive map marking past ASEM Summits. We have also introduced the Community Tab, allowing visitors to actively contribute to discussions on diverse topics about Asia and Europe. These changes have transformed the AIB into a more interactive platform and reflect our continued commitment to creating an engaging and inclusive environment for all visitors.



ASEMInfoBoard



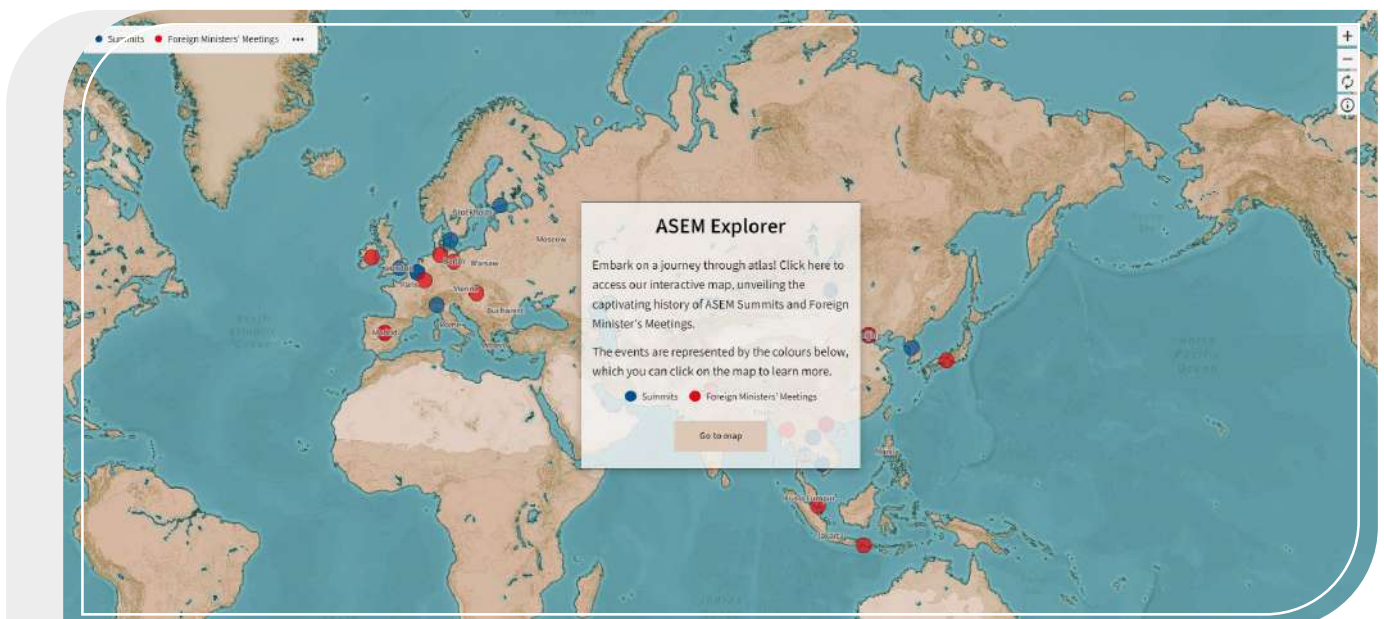
Co-funded by the European Union  
and the people's Republic of China

## AIB DATA STORY TELLING AND ANIMATION

Throughout 2023

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The story of ASEM was retold using cutting edge data storytelling techniques. We incorporated an interactive map containing existing ASEM information and history, which allows visitors to scroll, discover and be delighted by interesting graphics, pictures and facts. Additionally, COM embedded a short video the growth of ASEM's membership through animated content. Presenting ASEM information and history in a new way was essential to attract more organic visitors and increase AIB metrics.



# AIB COMMUNITY TAB

Throughout 2023

COM enhanced the AIB for public engagement by introducing a new tab at the top of the landing page entitled “Community”. Under this tab, 3 sub-sections have been created - Political, Economic, and Social - mirroring the 3 pillars of ASEM.

### a) For Political section:

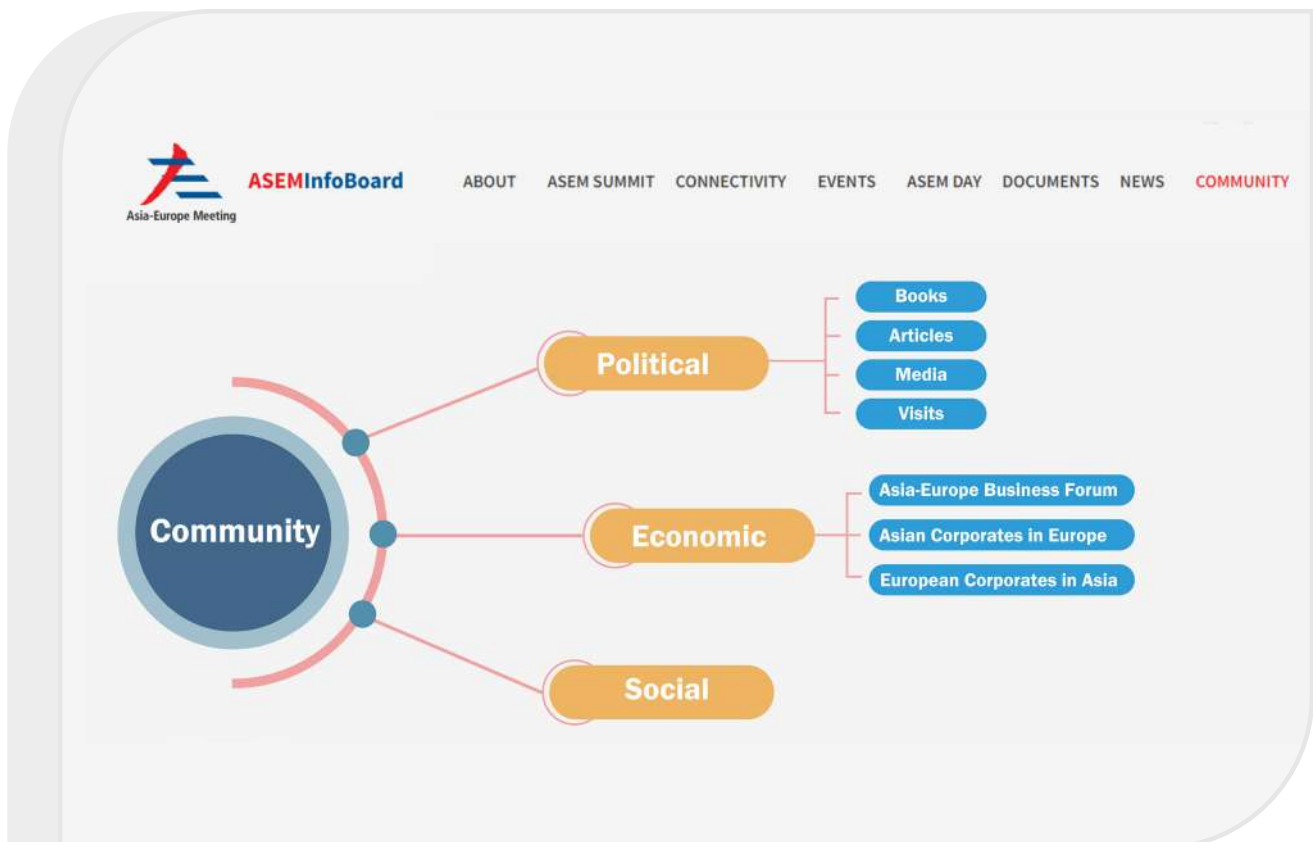
Curating and uploading relevant content to the website, including books and articles on the ASEM Process, past media reports on ASEM Summits and FMMs, and reports on Asia HOG and FM visits to Europe and vice versa.

### b) For Economic section:

Curating and uploading relevant content to the website, including information on the Asia-Europe Business Forum, Asian corporates in Europe and vice versa, and engaging with the business-related chambers or organisations. This section aims to facilitate ASEM’s interaction with corporates, aligning with the new strategy.

### c) For Social section:

Curating and uploading relevant content to the website in the social, cultural, and educational fields aims to promote enhanced contact and mutual understanding, as well as raise awareness of opportunities, among the peoples of Europe and Asia.



## ROUNDTABLE ON “THE FUTURE OF ASIA-EUROPE COOPERATION”

29 November 2023, Singapore and Online

On 29 November 2023, ASEF organised a virtual Roundtable on “The Future of Asia-Europe Cooperation”. The Roundtable drew on insights from our 25th Anniversary Essay Competition, resulting in a book of 68 essays, each reflecting unique perspectives and hopes on Asia-Europe relations. The event was attended by over 50 invited guests from various sectors and backgrounds, who were interested in learning more about the insights of four distinguished panellists on the state and prospects of Asia-Europe relations.



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The panellists were Dr Chheang Vannarith, President of Asian Vision Institute, Cambodia; Prof Evi Fitriani, Professor of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia; Dr Eva Pejsova, Japan Chair, Centre for Security, Diplomacy, and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance; and Mr Richard Werly, an award-winning journalist. The Roundtable was moderated by Dr Yeo Lay Hwee, Director of the EU Centre and Vice-Chair of ASEANCham-EU. You can find out more about it [here](#).





# CULTURE

**ASEF's work in Culture connects arts communities in Asia and Europe through online platforms, virtual residencies, arts festivals and bi-regional dialogue.**

**ASEF promotes cultural relations by connecting artists, cultural professionals, arts organisations, public institutions, networks and museums in Asia and Europe. ASEF's work in culture responds to current gaps in cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe by providing access to information, enabling building of capacity, facilitating dialogue and knowledge sharing and promoting artistic diversity.**

**The cross-disciplinary nature of the projects engages artists, heritage and museum professionals, arts administrators, and policy makers as well as experts from related fields such as environmentalists, journalists and academics.**



## ASIA-EUROPE CULTURAL FESTIVAL

22 October – 1 November 2023  
Singapore and Online



**Celebrating since 2018 cultural collaborations between arts communities in Asia and Europe.**

The Asia-Europe Cultural Festival is a multidisciplinary public arts festival that celebrates the artistic diversity of Asia and Europe and promotes the dialogue and exchange amongst artists from the two regions.

The 2023 edition took place for the first time in Singapore from 22 October to 1 November 2023. With all events sold out, the audiences in Singapore experienced a variety of events spanning dance to film, photography and music performances by artists from Italy, Malaysia, Cambodia, France, Estonia, Japan and Singapore. The Festival was organised by ASEF with the support of the European Union.

### The following activities took place in 2023:

- 1 documentary film highlighting the richness of cultural diversity
- 1 public forum on the role of photography in shaping the narrative of climate crisis in Southeast Asia
- 1 multidisciplinary theatre performance bringing on stage several art forms and artists from many countries from Europe and Asia
- 1 contemporary dance performance addressing the cultural exchange between Asian and Western culture through a female gaze
- 1 cultural diplomacy lab creating new spaces for encounters and capacity building to address inequalities and imbalances around cultural relations
- A podcast and lectures series published online on [culture360.ASEF.org](http://culture360.ASEF.org)

You can find out more about it [here](http://culture360.ASEF.org).



## ASEF CULTURE360

Throughout 2023

ASEF's arts and culture platform [culture360.ASEF.org](http://culture360.ASEF.org) enables digital access to relevant and updated information on arts, heritage and the creative industries and facilitates knowledge exchange on topics of common interest for Asia and Europe. In addition to online year-round activities, the project develops several activities online and offline such as arts residencies, mentorship programmes and roundtable series, all of which aim to stimulate cultural engagement and enhance mutual understanding between Asia and Europe.

## In 2023, the project developed the following activities:

- Over 240 updates on arts news, events and funding opportunities from Asia and Europe
- Over 20 commissioned articles a year on topics of common interest for Asia and Europe, partially selected through an open call process
- 7 media partnerships with relevant arts events in Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark and Viet Nam
- 1 publication [Recalibrating the Compass: New Approaches to Asia-Europe Cultural Relations](#) presenting the key findings and recommendations that emerged from ASEF [Recalibrating the Compass](#) roundtable series in 2022
- 1 Public Forum on Asia-Europe cultural relations (online, February 2023)
- 1 [Arts Journalism Matters Fellowship](#) providing long-term capacity building, networking and peer collaboration opportunities for young emerging arts journalists (online and in Singapore, September-October 2023)
- 1 [Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab- ASEFLinkUp](#) creating new spaces for encounters and capacity building for the various agents involved in cultural cooperation (Singapore, 24-27 October 2023)

## MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout 2023

Since 2012, ASEF culture360 has supported over 65 arts events through media partnerships in Asia and Europe. This year, both on-site and virtual arts events from Bangladesh, Denmark, Indonesia, Italy, Thailand, United Kingdom and Viet Nam were supported through a variety of communication activities, aimed at increasing the visibility and outreach of the event and organisation beyond its national or regional focus.



## ROUNDTABLE SERIES

9 February 2023  
Online

The Public Forum titled [Asia-Europe Cultural Relations - A look ahead](#) was organised on 9 February 2023 online as the final session of the 2022 Roundtable Series [Recalibrating the Compass](#). 6 speakers from Spain, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and France discussed challenges and approaches in Asia-Europe cultural relations, based on findings and recommendations of the consultation process [Recalibrating the Compass](#) developed throughout 2022. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## VIRTUAL RESIDENCES

September to October 2023  
Singapore and Online

A 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Arts Journalism Matters* Fellowship was organised in partnership with the European network on cultural management and policy (ENCATC), aiming to provide long-term capacity building, networking and peer collaboration opportunities for young emerging arts journalists from Asia and Europe.

In 2023, 2 arts journalists were brought together for a 4-week virtual residency, under the mentorship of Audrey Wong, cultural policy expert and arts educator at LASALLE College of the Arts from Singapore. Equipped with skills and knowledge from the residency, both participants had the opportunity to cover onsite, ASEF LinkUp | Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab, that took place from 24 to 27 October 2023 in Singapore. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## NEW PILOT PROJECT: ASEF LINKUP | ASIA-EUROPE CULTURAL DIPLOMACY LAB

24 – 27 October 2023  
Singapore and Online

ASEF LinkUp | Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab took place in Singapore from 24 to 27 October. The project brought together 20 arts professionals and diplomats based in Singapore and the ASEAN region to discuss how cultural diplomacy should be inspired by exchanges based on transparent goals, respect, intercultural understanding, mutuality, and trust-building thus generating a two-way street that enables learning and mutual cultural enrichment. Through the project, ASEF created new spaces for encounters and capacity building where various agents involved in cultural cooperation shared knowledge and approaches from different regions.

The Lab was organised by ASEF with the support of the Embassy of Italy in Singapore and Casa Asia. The Czech participation was supported by the Arts and Theatre Institute (ATI). You can find out more about it [here](#).



**ASEF's work in Education connects youth and student leaders, teachers and educators, higher education leaders and policy makers across Asia and Europe. Through policy dialogues, capacity building activities and the creation of bi-regional networks, we contribute to innovation in the formal and non-formal education sector and towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda2030.**

Education projects promote intercultural & intellectual dialogue and people-to-people exchanges and boost connectivity and quality of education across the ASEF member countries in Asia and Europe. As one of the key stakeholders of the ASEM Education process we bringing the voice of students and universities into decision-making spaces and inform education policies with evidence based research.

In the field of Education, ASEF implemented over 15 hybrid and interdisciplinary activities that boosted Asia-Europe Connectivity in 2023. These have directly/indirectly engaged over 9,000 participants from all ASEF Member Countries and provided diverse opportunities for learning and networking.

Learn more about our work in Education: <https://asef.org/themes/education/>



# EDUCATION

# 9<sup>TH</sup> ASEF REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ASIA-EUROPE HE MAPPING: WORKING TOWARDS THE SDGS



9<sup>th</sup> ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education  
Asia-Europe Higher Education Mapping: Working Towards the SDGs

2022-2023, Hybrid

The [ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education \(ARC\)](#) is the “Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEMME)” and the only bi-regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university and student leaders, policy makers and ministers to discuss higher education issues and shape the education landscape in Asia and Europe.

In 2023, ASEF organised three policy dialogues to discuss the findings of the [ARC9 Report](#) titled “**Asia-Europe Higher Education Mapping: Working Towards the SDGs**”:

- **Policy Dialogue Workshop with ASEAN+3 Students and University Leaders**, 18 July 2023, Online
- **Policy Dialogue Workshop with ASEM Education Policymakers and Stakeholders**, 27-29 September 2023, Rome, Italy
- **Policy Dialogue with Asian and European Student and Youth Leaders**, 2-5 November 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia

Policy recommendations emerging from the workshops are available [here](#).

Visit the [ARC9 website](#) to learn more.

**PARTNERS**



**DONORS**



# 5<sup>TH</sup> ASEF YOUNG LEADERS SUMMIT (ASEFYLS5) “LEADERSHIP IN SOCIETY 5.0”

5<sup>th</sup> ASEF LEADERSHIP  
YOUNG LEADERS IN SOCIETY  
SUMMIT 5.0  
August - December 2023 | Virtual & Salamanca, Spain

August - December 2023, Hybrid

The [5<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS5\)](#) was a leadership development programme for students & young professionals that took place from August to December 2023. It focused on the theme of ‘**Leadership & Society 5.0**’ and incorporated 3 spheres for youth leadership: 1) self-leadership ([you](#)), 2) team leadership ([we](#)) and 3) societal leadership ([all](#)).



The Programme brought together 99 Young Leaders from the 51 ASEF member countries, who lead in a variety of areas, as young academics, young entrepreneurs, leaders of youth associations. As part of this project, the [ASEF Youth Report 2023](#) on “**Stepping into Society 5.0: Youth Perspectives on Technology-Informed Societal Leadership**” was also launched in September 2023.

**The ASEFYLS5 programme consisted of 4 phases:**

- **Navigators Training:** 21-26 June 2023, Singapore
- **Knowledge Building:** August 2023, Online
- **Youth Summit:** 12-16 September 2023, University of Salamanca, Spain
- **Leadership in Action:** September-December 2023, Online (full month)

You can find out more about it [here](#).

<p><b>DONOR</b></p>  <p>Funded by the European Union</p>	<p><b>PARTNERS</b></p> 
<p><b>SUPPORTERS</b></p> 	

## 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION LAB

UNIVERSITIES' ROLE IN AI AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

May-November 2023, Hybrid



The [3rd and 4th edition of the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory \(ASEFInnoLab\)](#) were design thinking laboratories for leaders, managers and administrators of tertiary higher education institutions in charge of innovation and research related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). In 2023 the theme was “**Universities’ Role in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Ecosystems**”.



In partnership with [Fudan University](#), ASEF designed two programmes that involved 80 university managers, administrators and academics to exchange good practices, co-create new ideas and explore areas for collaboration among their institutions. The programmes led to concrete tangible outputs: participants designed [8 Innovation Action Plans](#) to further collaborate on research and teaching projects.

In 2023 the [Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence \(AE4AI\) Network](#) was also launched at the Shanghai Forum, highlighting three areas where Asian and European universities can significantly contribute to the ongoing developments: AI Governance; AI in Education; AI for Sustainable Development.

Visit the project website of the [ASEFInnolab3](#) and [ASEFInnolab4](#) to learn more.

<b>CO-ORGANISER</b>	 復旦大學 FUDAN UNIVERSITY	<b>SUPPORTER</b>	 RBS RIGA BUSINESS SCHOOL Riga Technical University	<b>DONOR</b>	 Ministry of Foreign Affairs People's Republic of China
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## 16TH ASEF CLASSROOM NETWORK PROJECT

LEADING CHANGE: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF AI



June-December 2023, Hybrid

The ASEF Classroom Network (ASEFClassNet) connects teachers, teacher trainers, and academics working at the secondary & vocational education sector from Asian & European countries through two programme tracks: **School Collaboration** for teachers and school leaders; **Faculty Collaboration** for teacher trainers, academic experts, and researchers.



The 16th edition of the ASEFClassNet project, focused on **“Leading Change: Digital Transformation of Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”** and took place in a hybrid format from June to December 2023. The primary aim was to conduct various capacity, dialogue, and partnership-building activities that result in equipping K-12 stakeholders with basic awareness, competencies, and strategies on (1) Applications of AI in education (AIED) and (2) The Teaching of AI in education (AI Literacy).

The programme consisted of 3 phases, including self-learning, peer-to-peer learning and action learning opportunities with collaborative elements and an on-site conference hosted in partnership with the International Research Centre for AI (IRCAI) under the auspices of UNESCO between 12-16 November 2023 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Visit ASEFClassNet16 webpages to learn more: [Faculty Collaboration](#), [School Collaboration](#) & [Onsite Conference](#).

<b>CO-ORGANISERS</b>	 ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION	 unesco Centre Under the auspices of UNESCO	 IRC AI International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO	 Institut "Jožef Stefan", Ljubljana, Slovenija
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<b>DONORS</b>	 Co-funded by the European Union	 UDENRIGSMINISTERIET Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	 Ministry of Foreign Affairs	 Government of Japan
	 REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS	 City of Ljubljana	 Videolectures	 Ljubljana Ljubljana Tourism

# GOVERNANCE

In the field of Governance, ASEF promotes informal, open, and non-confrontational dialogue between civil society and government representatives on human rights issues of importance to Asia and Europe and provides tailored capacity-building training for diplomats engaged in public diplomacy efforts.



# 11TH ASEF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY TRAINING (ASEFPDT11)

5 October - 9 November 2023, Online  
20-24 November 2023, Canberra, Australia

The Face-to-face training was hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia (DFAT) and supported in part by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Held in Canberra from 20-24 November 2023, it was preceded by 5 weeks of online sessions attended by 28 participants from 23 countries in Asia and Europe. Designed by DiploFoundation, the online sessions covered the challenges and opportunities arising from digital technology to the soft power of public diplomacy.

Over a span of 5 days, seasoned public diplomacy trainers and experts shared experiences that further expanded on the lessons learnt from the online course. The 23 participants from 21 Asian and European countries participated in role-play workshops geared to assist in developing their intercultural communication skills and exchange tactics and strategies for persuasive diplomatic public communications.

A much-anticipated item of the program, a cultural tour was arranged by the Host to showcase some of Australia's heritage and culture.



The participants in front of the Old Parliament House in Canberra during the cultural tour.

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The week concluded with a final panel discussion on enhancing Asia-Europe connectivity, with valuable and interesting anecdotes from HE Mr Anil Kumar Nayar, Singapore's High Commissioner to Australia; HE Mrs Ardi Stoios-Braken, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Australia; and Mr Pablo Kang, Head of 2024 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit Taskforce of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia.

*"I believe that the participants' engagement in the training course was very positive, it was insightful to hear the testimonies and interventions of other participants, and the group that was formed was also tight and solid. Additionally, the support received from the organization (ASEF and DFAT) was flawless. Every aspect of the course, both logistical and substantive, was perfectly designed and organized."*

*Tiago Monteiro, Third Secretary, Department for Asia and Oceania*



HE Mr Anil Kumar Nayar; HE Mrs Ardi Stoios-Braken; Mr Pablo Kang (left to right).

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable Development as a key theme in ASEF's work is the framework that embraces the crosscutting approach of the environmental, social and economic areas. It focuses strongly on exploring policy solutions and working within the environmental limits on the issues related to sustainable consumption and production, circular economy and climate change. We organise workshops, dialogue platforms, and knowledge hub meetings that produce research on sustainability in Asia and Europe. We align our work with the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to the global debate on climate change through Asia-Europe dialogue facilitation.



# ASIA-EUROPE ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Throughout 2023

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) provides an inter-regional platform for knowledge-sharing and capacity building for policy makers, businesses and civil society from Asia and Europe on issues related to sustainable development, specifically focusing on circular economy and climate change.

ENVFORUM PARTNER  
CONSORTIUM



## THE ASIA-EUROPE ENVIRONMENT FORUM (ENVFORUM) ANNUAL CONFERENCE “EMPOWERING INNOVATION IN ASIA & EUROPE - SMES AT THE HEART OF CIRCULAR TRANSITION”

21–22 November Brussels, Belgium

The 2023 ENVforum Conference was a pivotal event that facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices while fostering essential dialogue among various stakeholders. It targeted business representatives from the innovation and sustainability sectors, government officials dealing with SME-related issues across Asia and Europe, and the expert community focused on the circular economy transition.

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The conference offered a unique platform for SMEs to showcase how they serve as practical examples of entities facilitating the circular transition. It provided an avenue for discussing the challenges and barriers that SMEs face and the policy support required to hasten the green transition at the SME level. Additionally, the event encouraged participation in discussions on enabling factors, strategies, and milestones necessary for establishing circular business models, marking a significant step forward in the journey towards sustainability. The event also marked the 20th anniversary of the project, celebrated by partners and participants.



The outcomes of the event have been further showcased at the COP28 side events in December.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRANSITION FORUM (SDTF) 2023

16-19 October 2023, Incheon, Korea

The overarching objective of the 2022 SDTF was closely linked to the High Level Political Forum 2022, aiming to offer a platform for capacity building, policy dialogue and knowledge sharing for building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum aimed to achieve a better understanding of success, challenges, lessons learned, and good practices related to the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17, the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on those and across all the SDGs, and to identify potential solutions and share them with relevant stakeholders.

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ASEF is a knowledge partner in the project since its inception in 2012 contributing this year to the sessions dedicated to agriculture and climate change. Moreover, the event was an excellent opportunity to launch ASEF's study titled "Advancing Urban Sustainability in Cities Through Nature-based Solutions. Lessons from Asia.". The collaboration allowed the ENVforum to provide input to the HLPF on the topics of sustainable food and climate-resilient cities.



The 2023 SDTF is organised by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of UN DESA, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (UN DESA-DSDG), in collaboration with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Arirang TV.



## OP28 SIDE EVENT: “ROLE OF SMES IN THE TRANSITION TO CIRCULAR AND LOW CARBON ECONOMIES

6 December Dubai, ICC Pavilion, ICC Partner Stage

The event highlighted SMEs, particularly eco-inclusive ones, as pivotal players in the transition towards circular and low carbon economies, emphasising their largely untapped potential. The event underscored SMEs’ role in providing services to underserved communities, supporting empowerment initiatives, and leading sustainable production and consumption. Emphasis was placed on SMEs as innovators in environmental and social solutions, crucial for climate adaptation and mitigation.



The untapped potential of SMEs in areas like decarbonisation and digitalisation was recognized as key to innovation in the green economy. The ENVforum input based on meeting with SMEs championing circular transition in November was acknowledged highlighting the SMEs as crucial agents of change in the green economy, necessitating stronger support mechanisms and policy frameworks to harness their transformative impact fully.

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COLLABORATORS



PARTNERS



# PUBLIC HEALTH

Since its launch in 2009, ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN) has been promoting the bi-regional exchange of public health priorities with a strong focus on emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), including pandemic influenza. ASEF PHN has been working on the following topics: Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and Pandemic and the Economy.



ASEF PHN is financially supported by the Government of Japan.

## UHC IN AN ERA AMR AND PANDEMICS

21-22 February 2023, Tokyo, Japan

On 21-22 February, over 60 senior-level representatives hailing from Ministries of Health and Public Health Agencies, academia, industries, and international organisations across Asia and Europe gathered in Tokyo (Japan) for ASEF's conference on "[UHC in an Era AMR and Pandemics](#)". The event was co-organised with AMR Clinical Reference Center and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The overall aim of this conference was to facilitate a much-needed dialogue between governments and other stakeholders on practical ways to integrate a concern for AMR into UHC. The event was built upon the outcomes of the [2018 High-Level Meeting: Universal Health Coverage as a Tool to Combat Infectious Diseases](#). You can find out more about it [here](#).



CO-ORGANISER



CO-ORGANISER & SPONSOR



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of JAPAN

## PANDEMIC & THE ECONOMY 2023: A PANDEMIC-RESILIENT SOCIETY

6-7 June 2023, Helsinki, Finland

On 6-7 June 2023, the high-level conference "[Pandemic & the Economy 2023: A Pandemic-Resilient Society](#)" was jointly organised by ASEF PHN, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM), Finland, in Helsinki, Finland. Approximately 70 participants from more than 26 countries across Asia-Europe from diverse background, including the health and non-health sectors, participated in the conference to generate much needed dialogue on pandemic and the economy.



On Day 1 of the event, HE Ms Annika SAARIKKO, Minister of Finance from the Government of Finland, delivered a keynote speech where she cautioned about the mixing of roles of politicians and experts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was a follow-up of the 2021 online roundtable on "[Pandemic and the Economy: Investment for the Future](#)". You can find out more about it [here](#).



PARTNERS



Finnish institute for  
health and welfare



MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH  
Finland

**The Stockpile Project Unit translates the commitment made at the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2009 into actions aimed at strengthening ASEM Partners' capacity to manage public health emergencies. Since its inception, the team, through its stockpiling activities and humanitarian assistance, has significantly contributed to the rapid containment and enhancement of capacity for pandemic preparedness and response within the framework of infectious diseases. The Stockpile Unit's activities are financially supported by the Government of Japan through its Second and Third Trust Fund (JTF2 and JTF3). The project's responsibilities range from partnering with the World Health Organization (WHO) to appointing The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the world's largest humanitarian network.**

# STOCKPILE UNIT

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE - ADDITIONAL USD 10 MILLION SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR WHO'S HEALTH EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Throughout 2023

ASEF renewed its commitment to support WHO's Emergency Response for COVID-19, and other Vaccine Preventable and Infectious Diseases in areas where the needs are assessed to be immense such as Ukraine and neighbouring countries which have all been continuously accepting and supporting millions of Ukrainian refugees including ASEM partners – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia and non-ASEM partner Moldova.

For Phase II, WHO has procured essential medical supplies, equipment, and medicines worth more than USD 4.6 million for health institutions (hospitals, laboratories, and public health institutes) in Ukraine and other refugee-receiving countries to enhance the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

Staff of the National Institute of Public Health in Czechia during training on using Genetic Analyzer AB 3500xL procured by WHO with ASEF support. (Photo credit - ©WHO)



TB medicines in Poland procured by WHO with ASEF support.



## INTERNATIONAL EVENT: WHO PARTNERS FORUM 2023 – (EUROPEAN REGION)

13–14 June 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye

First-of-its-kind Partners Forum held in Istanbul, Türkiye, for leading health contributors from across Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia. With over 100 participants in attendance, the event aimed to enhance health sector partnerships with a series of panel discussions and presentations addressing the significant health and well-being challenges prevalent in the WHO European Region.



(Photo credit - ©WHO)

## LAUNCH OF THE JTF3 STOCKPILE PROJECT AND THE SELECTION OF IFRC AS THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTING AGENCY (PIA) FOR A TWO-YEAR COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WORTH USD 10 MILLION

28 November 2023, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) nominates the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for a two-years collaborative project worth USD 10 million aimed at strengthening preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in five partner countries namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the Philippines. In selecting these five countries, the IFRC has prioritized countries at high risk of disasters caused by natural hazards, the effects of which have been made worse by climate change, resulting also in high risk of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.



Signing ceremony for the partnership between Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). (Photo credit - ©IFRC)

The Stockpile project is funded by the Government of Japan



# ASEF AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

## ASEF PARTICIPATED IN THE ASEM DAY CELEBRATION ORGANISED BY INDONESIA

7-9 March 2023, Bandung, Indonesia

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

ASEF Executive Director, Ambassador Morikawa Toru, represented ASEF at the ASEM Day discussion on “Reigniting ASEM: the Future of Asia and Europe from Asia’s Perspective”. The discussion, which featured Asia’s perspective, served as a reminder and call to action to use ASEF as a bridge to advance cooperation between Asia and Europe at the people-to-people level and as a means to dilute geopolitical tensions. The event also served as a platform to spark intellectual exchanges between Asia and Europe and promote ASEF fully funded projects and events.



## ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (APAIE) 2023 CONFERENCE

13-17 March 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

EDUCATION

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ASEF Education Department Director Ms Reka Tozsa along with authors of the ARC9 Report titled “Asia-Europe Higher Education Mapping: Working Towards the SDGs” presented the key findings at one of the biggest regional higher education platforms: the annual conference of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) in Bangkok, Thailand. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## ASEF HOSTED BOOK LAUNCH ‘GEOFUTURE

21 March 2023, Singapore

EDUCATION

ASEF hosted a book launch and discussion with Dr Norbert CSIZMADIA on this new book ‘Geofuture – The Big Picture’. Dr Csizmadia is the President of the Pallas Athene Domus Meriti Foundation, and President of the John von Neumann University Foundation. This event was organised in partnership with the Embassy of Hungary in Singapore.

The event was opened with welcome remarks from Ambassador Toru MORIKAWA and Ambassador Judit PACH, Ambassador of Hungary to Singapore & ASEF’s Hungarian Governor. Dr Csizmadia gave a keynote



addressing the topic of “Geofuture – Eurasian Complexity Connectivity and Sustainability”, followed by a discussion with ASEF alumni & partner representatives reflecting on the topic, led by Dr Frederick KLIEM, Research Fellow from S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU). You can find out more about it [here](#).

## ASEF PARTICIPATES AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S MEETING ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

April 2023, Strasbourg, France

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

ASEF Executive Director, Ambassador Morikawa Toru, visited the Council of Europe on 18 April, to meet the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Bjorn Berge, and the Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Committee of Ministers. ASEF was pleased to join forces with the Council of Europe to achieve the shared goal of strengthening multilateralism and deepening cooperation. Ambassador Morikawa called for unity around common values in the current geopolitical context and stressed the need for more understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe.



## ASEF RECEIVED “EDUCATION AND SCIENCE” AWARD BY CASA ASIA

April 2023, Barcelona, Spain

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

ASEF was selected by the jury of the Casa Asia Awards 2023 as the winner for the category of “Education and Science”. The selection was based on its 25-year career helping to promote mutual understanding and collaboration between the civil societies of Asia and Europe. With this award, the jury recognized, in particular, the work of ASEF in the educational field, where its programs serve as a platform young people and create networks that facilitate collaboration between students, teachers and educators from Asia and Europe.



## ASEF PHN AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 May 2023, New York, US

PUBLIC HEALTH

On 9 May 2023, ASEF PHN attended the Multistakeholder Hearings in preparation of the General Assembly High-level Meetings on the Fight against Tuberculosis (TB), Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Using the outcomes from our recent high-level conference in Tokyo, Japan, “UHC in an Era of AMR and Pandemics”, Amb Morikawa highlighted how AMR should be included in the political statement for PPPR.

The purpose of the hearing was to get views from all stakeholders on the 3 health related topics, TB, PPPR and UHC as preparation to the high-level meetings in UNGA which took place in September 2023. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT (EYE) AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

9-10 June 2023, Strasbourg, France

EDUCATION

ASEF's Youth Project Lead Ms Freya Chow-Paul was invited to join the European Youth Event at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and speak on a panel discussion titled "The Indo-Pacific: A New Global Centre of Gravity?". The panel discussed Europe's engagement in the Asia-Pacific, and the importance of having structured settings, multilateral institutions and intercultural exchange for young people. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## ASEF SUPPORTS THE ASIA-EUROPE SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIVITY SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (AESCON)

14 June 2023, Online

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The third online edition of the Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity Scientific Conference (AESCON) was held on 14-15 June 2023. AESCON3 focused on a key priority area for the two regions: Digital Connectivity. Ambassador MORIKAWA Toru, ASEF Executive Director, delivered opening remarks and highlighted that by creating a peer-to-peer collaborative working environment, it is possible to harness the potential of digital connectivity to address common global challenges. With an emphasis on the intersection of human-centric and resilient digital transformation, the conference reflected on the digital partnerships between Asia and the EU, as well as the fast-changing global geo-political and geo-economic landscape.



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## ASEF PHN AT THE WORLD AMR CONGRESS 2023

7-8 September 2023, Philadelphia, US

PUBLIC HEALTH

ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN) spoke at the [World AMR Congress 2023](#) in Philadelphia, US, on 7-8 September 2023. The Congress is the world's largest AMR conference for all stakeholders combating Antimicrobial Resistance.

On Day 1 of the congress, ASEF PHN spoke in a keynote panel titled "What if the next pandemic happened tomorrow?" and moderated a panel titled "The increasing importance of LMICs in finding solutions to AMR". On Day 2, ASEF PHN hosted a roundtable titled "Strengths and Weaknesses of a One Health Approach". You can find out more about it [here](#).



## MEETING: “ADDRESSING THE HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY CRISIS - WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?”

20-21 September 2023, Oxford, United Kingdom

EDUCATION

The event organised by the World Access to Higher Education Network (WAHEN) and hosted by University of Oxford brought together leading organisations on the topic from across the globe to create an action map to address the current crisis in access to higher education. ASEFEdu’s Director Ms Reka Tozsa was invited to share their work on equity in higher education and the key findings of the comparative study on Asia-Europe Equity Policies in Higher Education. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## 6TH ASEAN+3 RECTORS’ CONFERENCE

20-21 September 2023, Surabaya, Indonesia

EDUCATION

ASEFEdu was represented by Ms Cleo Cachapero, Senior Project Executive, at the event organised by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and shared the highlights of the ARC9 Dialogue Workshop on “Working Towards the SDGs: Mapping University and Student Perspectives in ASEAN” at the 6th ASEAN+3 Rectors’ Conference held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 20-21 September 2023. You can find out more about it [here](#).



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## ASEF PHN AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

21 September 2023, New York, US

PUBLIC HEALTH

On 21 September 2023, as a member of UHC 2030, ASEF PHN participated in the High-Level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage convened by the UN General Assembly for strengthening the progress toward achieving health for all. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIENNA 1993 - STRENGTHENING IMPERATIVES 30 YEARS AFTER

27-29 September 2023, Vienna, Austria

GOVERNANCE

The Governance Unit of ASEF was invited to join an international human rights conference organised by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights and the Institute for Constitutional and Administrative Law of the University of Vienna in September in Vienna, Austria. The 3-day event provided participants with an interdisciplinary forum to reflect on past achievements, discuss current challenges, and give an outlook on future challenges in international human rights protection 30 years after the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights and its Programme of Action. You can find out more about it [here](#).

VIENNA DECLARATION + 30



STRENGTHENING IMPERATIVES  
30 YEARS AFTER

## EUNIC REGIONAL CLUSTER SEMINAR

5 and 6 October 2023, Hanoi, Viet Nam

CULTURE

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Co-hosted by the Goethe-Institut in Hanoi, the EUNIC regional seminar for clusters in the Asia-Pacific region brought together representatives from 16 clusters in the region. Over two days, the seminar offered participants the opportunity to get to know and learn from each other, share experiences and challenges of working in the framework of EUNIC clusters. ASEF Culture Director Valentina Riccardi introduced the report [Recalibrating the Compass: New Approaches to Asia-Europe Cultural Relations](#) exploring recent developments in the region's contemporary cultural landscape. You can find out more about it [here](#).

Participants of the  
EUNIC regional  
seminar for clusters in  
the Asia-Pacific region.

Photo: Nguyen Duc  
Hieu



# ENCATC CONGRESS 2023: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EMBRACED - THE FUTURE OF THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTOR

11-13 October 2023, Helsinki, Finland

CULTURE

ASEF continues to engage with partners and stakeholders in conversations on cultural policy and the unique role of arts and culture sectors in connecting people within and beyond borders. At the ENCATC Congress 2023, ASEF Culture was invited to share perspectives on international cultural relations, by presenting findings from its latest report, [Recalibrating the Compass: New Approaches to Asia-Europe Cultural Relations](#). During the congress, ASEF Culture also shared commissioned research from its arts and culture website, [culture360.ASEF.org](#), the latest trends and technologies in the arts from Asia. You can find out more about it [here](#).



Photo Credit: European network on cultural management and policy (ENCATC)

## THE SHANGHAI FORUM

27-29 October 2023, Shanghai, China

EDUCATION

ASEF was present at the [Shanghai Forum 2023](#) which kicked off on October 27 2023 with a focus on the theme “Towards a More Inclusive Globalization: Asia’s New Responsibilities”. Nearly 500 guests from world-renowned think tanks, universities, public and private sectors attended the Forum, with about half of the guests from abroad. ASEF and Fudan University Development Institute was co-organising subforum discussions on the Future of AI and Digital Security. You can find out more about it [he re](#).



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## WORLD YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FORUM

30 Oct – 6 Nov 2023, Beijing, China

EDUCATION

Ms Freya CHOW-PAUL, Youth Project Lead, ASEF Education Department, was invited to join the World Youth Development Forum 2023, which including the Action Plan for Global Youth Development (APGYD) 2023 Youth Leadership Campus. WYDF was organised by the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF), long-term partners of ASEF. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## DIALOGUE EVENT ON SUCCESSFUL LIFELONG LEARNING THROUGH AUTONOMY AND ‘CAPITALS’

8 November 2023, Singapore

EDUCATION

ASEF Education Department partnered with The HEAD Foundation for this event with speakers Dr Séamus Ó Tuama, Chair of ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL HUB); Prof Hong Hai, chairman of @U3A Duxton Hill, a University of the Third Age providing lifelong learning and active engagement among third agers focusing on Holistic Wellbeing; and Koh Chye Soon, from 42 Singapore, which provides tuition-free training in tech-skills, accessible to all. You can find out more about it [here](#).

The HEAD Foundation  
Dialogues

ASIA-EUROPE  
FOUNDATION

ASEM  
Lifelong Learning  
RESEARCH HUB

### Successful Lifelong Learning through Autonomy and ‘Capitals’

Speaker

Panellists



**Dr Séamus Ó Tuama**  
Chair, ASEM Education and  
Research Hub for Lifelong  
Learning (ASEM LLL HUB)



**Prof Hong Hai**  
Chairman, U3A Duxton Hill  
Emeritus Professor, Nanyang  
Technological University



**Koh Chye Soon**  
Head, 42 Singapore,  
Singapore University  
of Technology and Design

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM PROGRAMME CONFERENCE

20-22 November 2023, Budapest, Hungary

EDUCATION

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Amb Toru MORIKAWA, Executive Director of ASEF, gave a keynote speech at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme that took place from 20-22 November 2023 in Budapest, Hungary. His keynote focused on the idea of “Connectivity” and the crucial role ASEF has been playing to connect Asia and Europe. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## YOKOHAMA INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS MEETING 2023

1-17 December 2023, Yokohama, Japan

CULTURE

CE’s Senior Project Executive Giulia Poli was invited to present ASEF’s work in culture in the framework of the Yokohama International Performing Arts Meeting, an annual performing arts platform where professionals from various places of the world explore the possibility of contemporary performing arts exchange through performance and meeting programs to gain information, inspiration and network for the creation, dissemination and vitalisation of the performing arts. You can find out more about it [here](#).



# ASEF AT ASEM EVENTS

## ASEM EDUCATION SENIOR OFFICIALS' FIRST MEETING (SOM1)

21-24 May 2023, Malta

The First ASEM Education Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1) in Preparations for the 9th ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEMME9) was titled “Asia and Europe: Reboosting interregional cooperation on education”. ASEF Education Department Director Ms Reka Tozsa was invited to present ASEF’s work, participate in the dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders, and moderate the workshop titled “Approaches on digitally enhanced learning and teaching at higher education institutions with a focus on the use of microcredentials”. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## ASEM LLL HUB INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Throughout 2023

ASEF is a member of the International Advisory Council of the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub), together with 25 national ministries and 4 international organisations. Represented by the Education Director Ms Reka Tozsa, ASEF is working closely with the ASEM LLL Hub to build synergies and support each other in designing, implementing, disseminating each other’s activities. You can find out more about it [here](#).



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## ASEM EDUCATION EXPERT GROUPS

Throughout 2023

ASEF Education Department has been an active member and contributor to two ASEM Education Expert Groups throughout 2023: (EG1) Expert Group on Sustainable Development and Education and (EG3) Expert Group on Digitalisation. These groups consist of representatives of ASEM Partner Countries and regional organisations to serve as regular platforms for exchange and learning as part of the process. You can find out more about it [here](#).



# PUBLICATION

## VOICES FROM ASIANS AND EUROPEANS ON “THE FUTURE OF ASIA-EUROPE COOPERATION”

How will Asia-Europe cooperation evolve in 25 years? This and more questions are answered in this book, that features 68 essays selected from an Essay Competition organised by ASEF’s Communications Department. It provides an interesting read of broad perspectives, emphasising the significance of ASEM and ASEF for promoting understanding and strengthening dialogue between the two regions.

The book is available in digital format on various [eBook platforms](#) or as printed versions at [Kinokuniya Book Stores](#) with the possibility of international shipping. You can find out more about it [here](#).



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## RECALIBRATING THE COMPASS: NEW APPROACHES TO ASIA-EUROPE CULTURAL RELATIONS

This publication, produced by ASEF culture360, presents the key findings and recommendations that emerged from ASEF’s [Recalibrating the Compass](#) roundtable series organised in 2022.

Authored by cultural policy expert Jordi Baltà Portolés, who co-designed the roundtables and wrote the individual reports, the publication summarises the insights, ideas and recommendations highlighted throughout the series and presents guidance for future work in the field of Asia-Europe cultural relations. Apart from passing on knowledge on how to navigate the current challenges of international cultural relations, this publication provides some starting points when thinking about the roles that stakeholders can play in the field of Asia-Europe cultural collaboration and possible strategies for a post-pandemic recovery. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## ARC9 REPORT: “ASIA-EUROPE HIGHER EDUCATION MAPPING: WORKING TOWARDS THE SDGs”

### Part 1: Mapping Policymakers Perspectives

This study maps higher education policies advancing sustainable development across Asia and Europe. **Covering 31 national contexts in Asia and Europe**, the study combines data from a survey, focus group discussions, and a review of secondary sources to glean patterns in how governments are encouraging HEIs to contribute to the SDGs, provide concrete examples of enabling measures, and identify opportunities that may be leveraged to strengthen the HE policy-practice interface towards the SDGs.

### Part 2: Mapping Higher Education Institutional Perspectives

This study showcases developments regarding sustainable development in the higher education sector from the perspective of higher education institutions.

It maps 240 institutional perspectives from **42 countries in Asia and Europe**, showcasing how universities engage with the SDGs. The study was conducted in partnership with the [International Association of Universities \(IAU\)](#), building on the 3rd IAU Global Survey on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD). You can find out more about it [here](#), or watch the recording of the Launch of the ARC9 Study [here](#).



## ASEF YOUTH REPORT 2023: “STEPPING INTO SOCIETY 5.0: YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNOLOGY-INFORMED SOCIETAL LEADERSHIP”

This report was created as part of the [5th ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS5\)](#) project, **summarising over 8,500 young leaders' perspectives** from 51 Asian and European countries on the key societal challenges of our times, and how technology could be deployed to address them.

It addresses two foundational questions crucial for shaping a more sustainable, digitally integrated future:

- How can societies within Society 5.0 benefit from the inclusion, support, and engagement of young people in technology-driven leadership roles?
- How can those in positions of power support young people on their leadership journeys in a world increasingly defined by Society 5.0?

The recommendations and insights strive to ignite conversations among influential individuals within their countries, organisations, educational institutions, and communities, shedding light on the best ways to empower aspiring young leaders. You can find out more about it [here](#) or watch the launch presentation of the report findings [here](#).



## ASEFCLASSNET16 REPORT: “ASIAN AND EUROPEAN TEACHERS’ PERSPECTIVES ON AI AND EDUCATION”

This survey report is based on the **views of 330 secondary school teachers** from 43 Asian and European countries, who shared their perspectives on various aspects of AI&ED. Their responses have been analysed and the findings are presented in this report.

It aims to serve as a tool to inform relevant secondary education stakeholders about how teachers view the role of AI in education and what they think about AI literacy, and their fears and hopes.

ASEF hopes that this report will contribute to the ongoing critical conversation on AI&ED and raise awareness about teachers’ roles and capacity building for appropriate and meaningful AI&ED innovation. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## UNESCO APCIEU TEACHER’S HANDBOOK: “TEACHING ACROSS BORDERS: A GUIDE TO FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR APTE TEACHERS”

The Asia-Pacific Teacher Exchange for Global Education (APTE) is a bilateral teacher exchange programme between the Republic of Korea and Asia-Pacific countries, hosted by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea (MOE ROK) and implemented by the [Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO](#) (APCEIU), in collaboration with the Ministries of Education of the partner countries.

ASEF was invited to share its experience in facilitating teacher exchange programmes and wrote the chapter titled **“The nine-step preparation process for independent operation of educational exchange”**. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## CONFERENCE REPORT: RISK COMMUNICATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES: THE ROLE OF RISK COMMUNICATION IN PANDEMICS

This report provides a summary of the conclusions of the High-level Meeting on “Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies: The Role of Risk Communication in Pandemics” held as a hybrid event in Cardiff on 19-20 October 2022. The participants included public health experts from a number of countries in Asia and Europe, working on different aspects of Risk Communication. The overall aim of the High-level Meeting was to strengthen countries’ capacity to support Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies (PHEs). It was also intended to provide a platform for the bi-regional exchange of best practices and lessons learnt related to Risk Communication during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. You can find out more about it [here](#).



## CONFERENCE REPORT: UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) IN AN ERA OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) AND PANDEMICS

This report provides a summary of the conclusions of the High-Level Meeting on “Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics” held in Tokyo on 21-22 February 2023. The participants included public and private sector experts from a number of countries in Asia and Europe, including the European Commission, working on different aspects of the response to antimicrobial resistance. The aim was to identify priority actions for the next steps in addressing this global public health challenge. You can find out more about it [here](#) or watch the video on the conference [here](#).



## POLICY BRIEF: PANDEMIC & THE ECONOMY – A PANDEMIC-RESILIENT SOCIETY

On 5 May 2023, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for COVID-19. It is important to learn lessons from our experience, including the management shifting from pandemic to endemic. It is the time to create the foundations for a pandemic resilient society, in order to avoid similar health and economic catastrophes for the next time around. Building a pandemic resilient society requires sustainable, long-term financing and resilience requires an inter-sectorial dialogue within society across different sectors, not only within the health sector. This paper provides policy recommendations and a set of good practices to implement structures for a pandemic-resilient society. You can find out more about it [here](#) or watch the video on the conference [here](#).



## INTERVIEW SERIES: ASEF PHN X WORLD AMR AWARENESS WEEK

During the World AMR Awareness Week, which is celebrated from 18-24 November annually, ASEF PHN released a series of interviews featuring experts discussing crucial facets of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The interviews were collected during the conference, “Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an era of AMR and Pandemics” held in Tokyo in 2023. You can find out more about it [here](#).

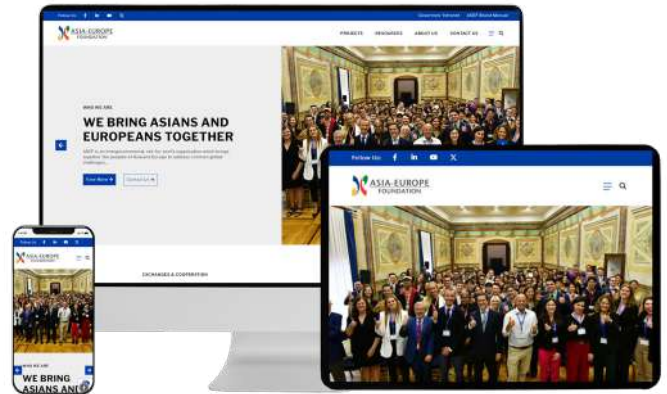


# WEBSITE

## [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org)

ASEF.org is the official website of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), serving as a central hub for promoting collaboration and dialogue between Asia and Europe. As the primary online platform of this prominent organization, the website offers a wide range of resources and features designed to facilitate knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and people-to-people connections. ASEF.org showcases the impactful projects undertaken by ASEF across seven thematic areas: Culture, Economy, Education, Governance, Media, Public Health and Sustainable Development.

By providing a gateway for stakeholders to engage in meaningful partnerships and collaborations, the website plays a pivotal role in promoting and strengthening inter-regional cooperation between Asia and Europe.



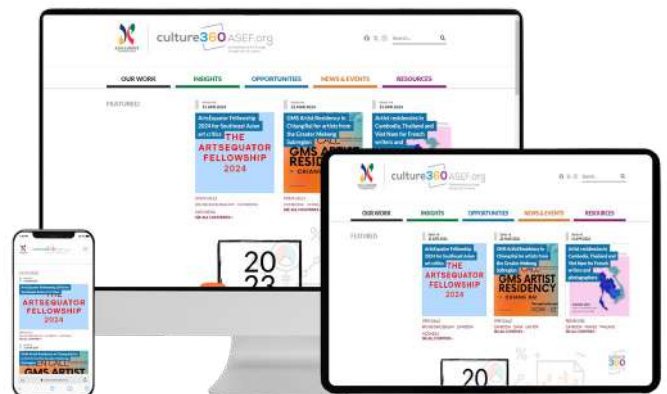
## [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

The ASEM InfoBoard (AIB) website is the only official digital platform of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). It is a one-stop online information hub for all ASEM meetings, conference documents and ASEM news. As decided at ASEMFM6, ASEF was mandated to manage AIB on behalf of 53 ASEM Partners since 2004. The ASEM InfoBoard website provides comprehensive resources, including news articles, event listings, policy documents, and publications, offering stakeholders a reliable source of information on ASEM-related activities.



## [culture360.ASEF.org](http://culture360.ASEF.org)

ASEF culture360 is a digital information hub for arts and culture communities across Asia and Europe offering up-to-date information on arts, culture and heritage from 51 ASEM Partners. For over 15 years, this online platform has served as a “one stop shop” for relevant arts news, opportunities, and events that are relevant for individual artists, arts organisations and cultural policymakers in the ASEM region, in line with the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG16. It remains the only website offering such a service in the ASEM context and has been recognised as a good model of information exchange between the two regions by UNESCO, the UN’s agency for culture and the European Union.



# SOCIAL MEDIA

## LinkedIn

- » Followers: **28,743**
- » Engagements: **32,378**
- » User reached: **581,116**

### LinkedIn Channels:

- » Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- » Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)
- » ASEFEdu
- » ASEFsd

## Instagram

- » Followers: **10,858**
- » Engagements: **12,688**
- » User reached: **2,264,272**

### Instagram Channels:

- » @asef\_edu
- » @asiaeuropemtg
- » @culture360\_asef



## Facebook

- » Followers: **180,653**
- » Engagements: **314,783**
- » User reached: **4,617,906**

### Facebook Channels:

- » Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- » Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)
- » ASEFEdu
- » ASEF Culture360



## X

- » Followers: **9,735**
- » Engagements: **7,959**
- » Users reached: **3,692,342**

### X channels Channels:

- » @aseforg
- » @asiaeuropemtg
- » @asef\_PHN
- » @asefedu



SCAN HERE

# HUMAN RESOURCES

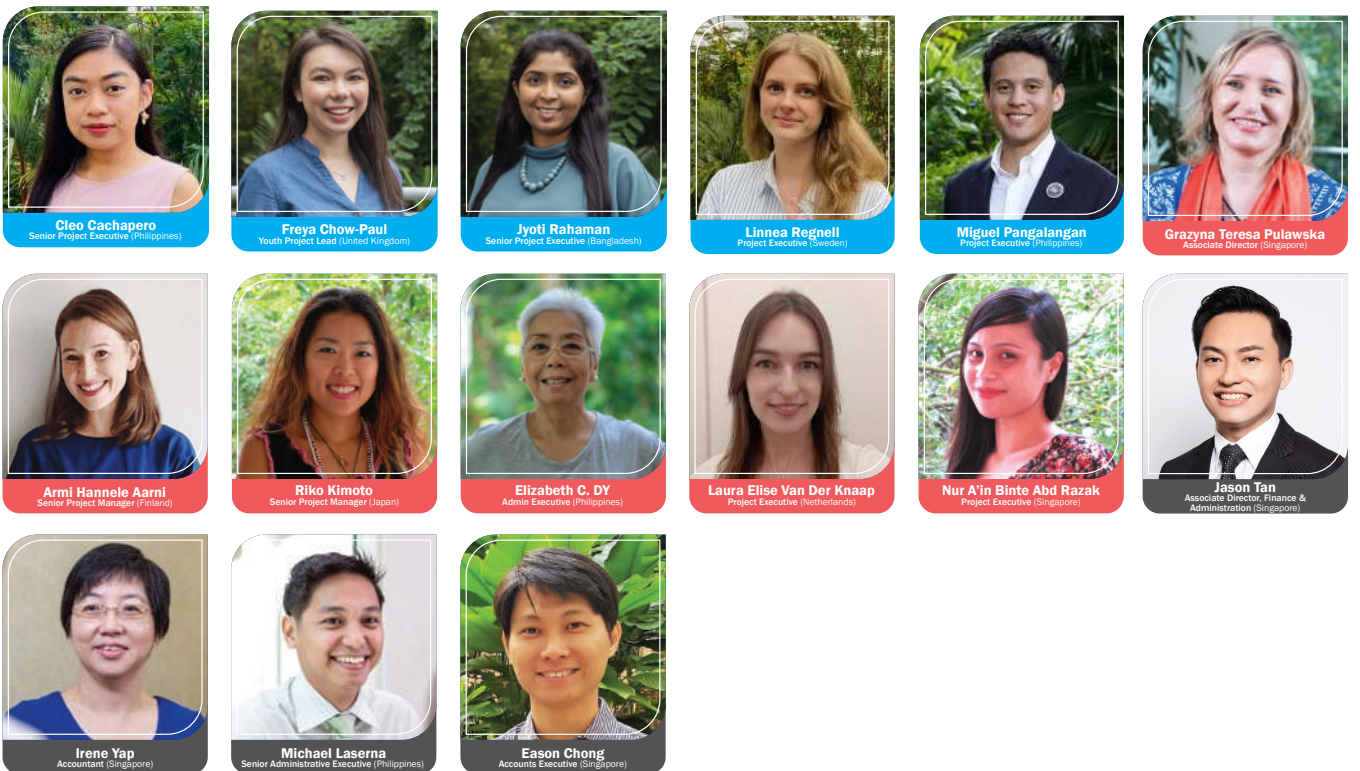
ASEF Staff Strength as on 31 December 2023	Male	Female	Total
CE		3	3
COM	2	1	3
EDU*	1	6	7
EO (include Stockpile)	2	8	10
F&A	3	1	4
GSD		6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>

Nationality Breakdown	Asia	Europe
Bangladesh	1	
China	1	
Finland		1
France		1
Hungary		1
Germany		1
Indonesia	1	
Italy		2
Japan	2	
Malaysia	1	
Mongolia	1	
Netherlands		1
Philippines	4	
Poland		1
Portugal		1
Singapore	10	
Slovenia		1
Sweden		1
United Kingdom		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>





# WHC WE ARE



## Other Staff:

**Alessandro Sereni** (Italy) GSD Project Executive/Admin (Feb 2023); **TAN Siam Luang** (Singapore) F&A Finance Manager (Mar 2023); **Quentin Dorian Hyun Il FAYET** (Switzerland) EDU Project Executive (Mar 2023); **Sathish Murugayah** (Singapore) COM Project Executive (Apr 2023); **Lam Kong Chai** (Singapore) F&A Director, Finance & Administration (Apr 2023); **Mai Fujii** (Japan) EO Associate Director, Co-ordinator for Pandemic P&R (Jun 2023); **Felix Emmanuel Florencio IV Legarde Golez** (Philippines) EO Finance Project Manager (Jun 2023); **Nuanpan THAMANOVANISH** (Thailand) GSD Project Executive (Jun 2023); **Laure Du Teilhet De Lamothe** (France) GSD Director (Aug 2023); **Chu Chung Yan** (Singapore) F&A Finance Manager (Sep 2023); **YEOH Seang Keong** (Malaysia) CE Project Manager (Sep 2023); **Saifudin Hamjuri Bin SAMSURI** (Singapore) GSD Project Manager (Nov 2023); **Chong Zhi-Feng, Glenn** (Singapore) COM Communications Manager (Nov 2023); **Preeti Gaonkar** (India) EO Associate Director (Nov 2023)

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

\*Unaudited figures as at 31 Dec 2023

Receipts have been converted to Singapore Dollars SGD at transaction date rates

2023 INFORMATION (SGD)				YTD 1997 to 2023 (SGD)				
S/N	MEM BERS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	OPERATING	TOTAL PROJECT FUND (Incl. Trust Fund)	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION 1997 - 2023	TOTAL OPERATING FUND	TOTAL PROJECT FUND (Incl. Trust Fund)	TOTAL RESERVE FUND
01	ASEAN Secretariat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Australia	53,500	53,500	0	731,687	731,687	0	0
03	Austria	50,533	50,533	0	2,437,120	2,437,120	0	0
04	Bangladesh <sup>1</sup>	19,794	19,794	0	204,582	204,582	0	0
05	Belgium	0	0	0	2,663,165	1,111,460	145,026	1,406,678
06	Brunei Darussalam	81,316	81,316	0	2,937,063	2,937,062	0	0
07	Bulgaria	31,862	31,862	0	573,826	573,826	0	0
08	Cambodia	13,401	13,401	0	224,966	224,966	0	0
09	China	1,370,174	328,842	1,041,332	15,378,171	9,233,225	6,144,946	0
10	Croatia <sup>1</sup>	4,354	4,354	0	27,733	27,733	0	0
11	Cyprus	7,219	7,219	0	167,241	167,240	0	0
12	Czech Republic	60,397	60,397	0	1,000,260	1,000,260	0	0
13	Denmark	0	0	0	4,825,502	4,320,041	505,461	0
14	Estonia <sup>1</sup>	14,502	14,502	0	290,820	290,820	0	0
15	European Union	866,615	0	866,615	27,081,246	4,389,163	20,838,684	1,853,400
16	Finland <sup>1</sup>	36,344	36,344	0	4,214,045	4,214,045	0	0
17	France	0	0	0	9,092,821	1,845,625	6,232,796	1,014,400
18	Germany	296,849	296,849	0	10,323,606	10,323,606	0	0
19	Greece	0	0	0	403,401	377,871	0	25,530
20	Hungary	36,095	36,095	0	1,119,568	1,119,568	0	0
21	India	162,302	162,302	0	2,634,423	2,634,423	0	0
22	Indonesia	81,137	81,137	0	2,090,670	2,090,670	0	0
23	Ireland	147,317	147,317	0	3,483,950	3,483,950	0	0
24	Italy <sup>2</sup>	110,687	24,432	86,255	2,411,552	2,325,297	86,255	0
25	Japan	502,962	182,848	320,114	85,396,043	5,773,931	79,622,112	0
26	Kazakhstan	29,586	29,586	0	268,360	268,360	0	0
27	Korea	267,199	267,199	0	8,051,208	6,363,270	345,900	1,342,038
28	Lao PDR	6,677	6,677	0	131,451	131,451	0	0
29	Latvia	33,347	33,347	0	599,673	599,673	0	0
30	Lithuania	29,533	29,533	0	433,778	433,778	0	0
31	Luxembourg	85,684	85,684	0	7,291,492	6,237,637	0	1,053,853
32	Malaysia	81,316	81,316	0	2,121,680	1,555,769	0	565,911
33	Malta	0	0	0	67,773	67,773	0	0
34	Mongolia	9,347	9,347	0	103,944	103,944	0	0
35	Myanmar <sup>2</sup>	27,360	27,360	0.00	472,216	472,216	0	0
36	Netherlands <sup>1</sup>	99,482	0	99,482	4,055,255	3,525,858	529,397	0
37	New Zealand	0	0	0	974,965	974,965	0	0
38	Norway	122,654	122,654	0.00	1,482,250	1,444,753	37,497	0
39	Pakistan	0	0	0	505,325	505,325	0	0
40	Philippines <sup>2</sup>	114,019	87,092	26,927	1,823,159	1,769,382	53,777	0
41	Poland	0	0	0	1,400,615	1,400,615	0	0
42	Portugal	24,638	24,638	0	1,610,843	733,530	0	877,313
43	Romania <sup>2</sup>	29,463	29,463	0	514,568	514,568	0	0
44	Russian Federation	0	0	0	1,814,029	1,814,029	0	0
45	Singapore <sup>1</sup>	267,199	267,199	0	9,751,540	6,322,240	0	3,429,300
46	Slovakia	0	0	0	171,145	171,145	0	0
47	Slovenia	14,653	14,653	0	400,141	400,141	0	0
48	Spain	86,763	86,763	0	3,255,194	3,255,194	0	0
49	Sweden	84,076	84,076	0	3,924,486	3,924,486	0	0
50	Switzerland <sup>1</sup>	228,132	181,949	46,183	2,444,187	2,053,390	390,797	0
51	Thailand	94,725	94,725	0	3,068,944	1,670,829	0	1,398,114
52	United Kingdom	0	0	0	2,453,044	1,038,609	1,414,436	0
53	Viet Nam	40,658	40,658	0.00	933,641	933,642	0	0
	<b>TOTAL SGD</b>	<b>5,723,874</b>	<b>3,236,966</b>	<b>2,486,908</b>	<b>239,838,364</b>	<b>110,524,741</b>	<b>116,347,083</b>	<b>12,966,538</b>

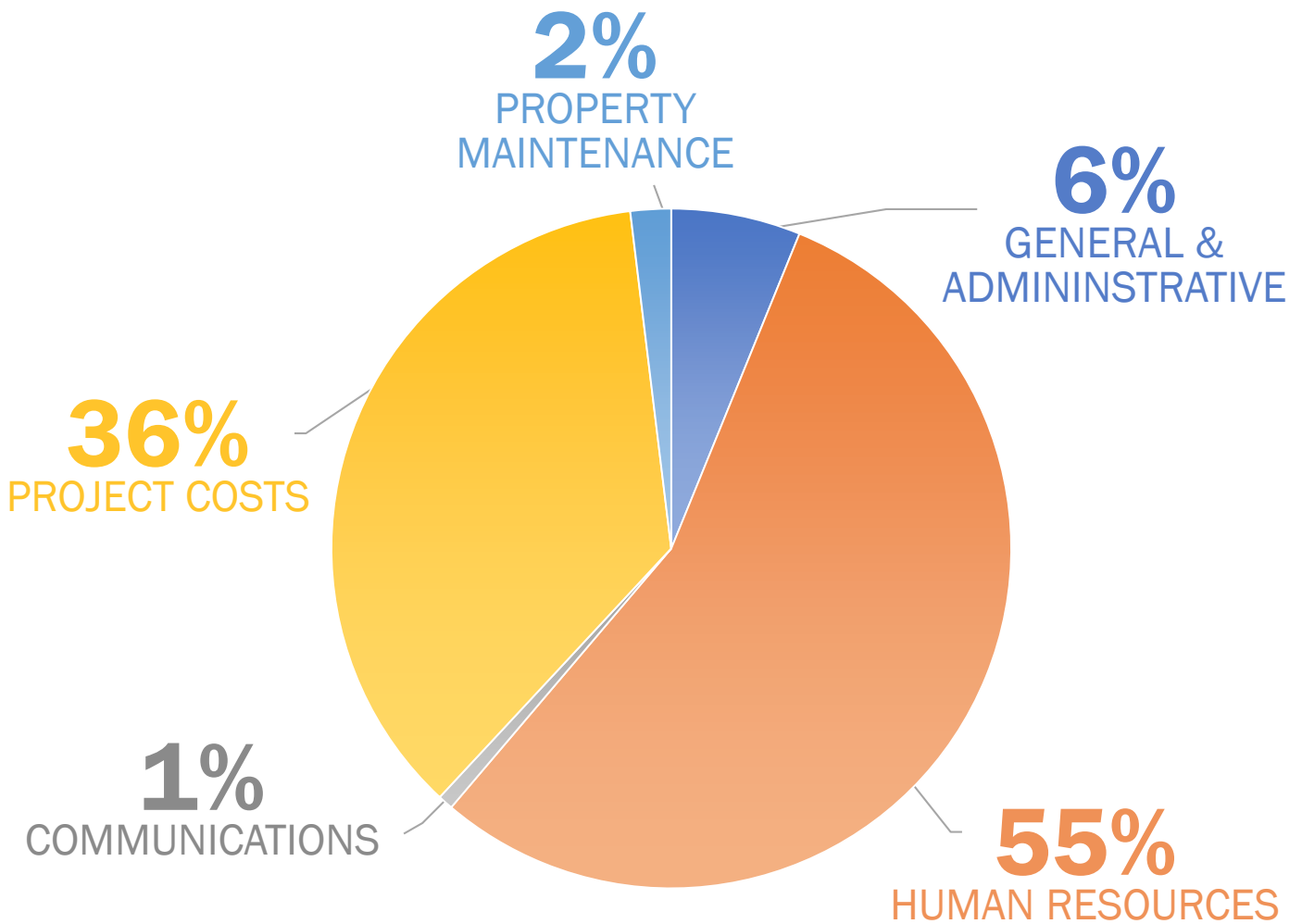
This table (denominated in Singapore dollars) lays out the receipt/receivable of funding from ASEF members countries by calendar year for reference. The financial year for Years 1997-2005 was from 1 April to 31 March. In 2006, the financial year was changed to end on 31 December. **Footnote:** <sup>1</sup>Includes amount receivable for 2023 & previous year. <sup>2</sup>Includes amount received for previous year contribution.

**NOTE: RECEIPTS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO SGD AT TRANSACTION DATE RATES**

**The contributions received from ASEF Members are placed under the following funds in accordance with the declarations made by the contributors:**

- Operating Fund Contributions received are utilised for the operating requirements of ASEF.
- Project Fund Contributions received are utilised for the funding of projects. In the case of trust funds, contributions received are ear-marked for specific projects, the utilisation of which requires prior approval from the contributing member.
- Reserve Fund Contributions received are invested, with income generated being used to finance activities of ASEF if necessary.

# 2023 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE\*



\*Unaudited figures as at 31 Dec 2023



**ASIA-EUROPE**  
**FOUNDATION**

**CONTACT US**

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[www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)