



As the year comes to a close, ASEF Culture is pleased to share our key achievements in 2025.

The 3rd edition of LinkUp | Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab in Yogyakarta (Indonesia) marked an important milestone in our efforts to strengthen Asia-Europe cultural relations. By convening 16 experts from government and the independent arts sector, LinkUp has become a key platform shaping new thinking in cultural diplomacy across both regions. Its outcomes — including a report and a high-level roundtable co-organised with Casa Asia as an official UNESCO MONDIACULT 2025 side-event — have contributed to advancing policy discussions at the international level.

Through ASEF's culture360 platform, we continued to enhance knowledge sharing by producing targeted publications and podcasts, ensuring that artists and cultural professionals in Asia and Europe have access to timely, curated information.

This year also saw the most extensive edition of the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) to date, with 11 events delivered across Poland, China, Singapore and Lao PDR. Featuring 52 artists from 13 countries, supported by 3 programming partners and 7 government bodies, the Festival reached over 3,000 attendees and strengthened cross-cultural exchange through exhibitions, performances, film screenings and dialogues. The AECFest Residency Programme further advanced artistic collaboration by supporting the development of 3 new works.

These achievements reflect ASEF's commitment to fostering meaningful and inclusive cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe. We are grateful for the continued support of our institutional partners and look forward to delivering further impactful initiatives in 2026.

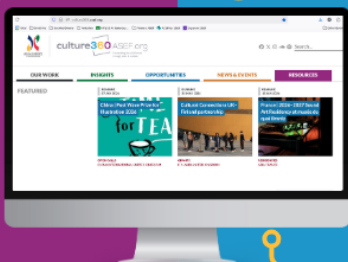
## culture360

Since 2008, culture360.ASEF.org has advocated for regular, up-to-date and open access to information on arts, culture and heritage across all 51 ASEM countries. In 2025, culture360 focused on 4 areas: spotlighting cultural activities in ASEM countries; exploring the intersection of arts, environment and sustainability; cross-border cultural mobility; and strengthening the skills of emerging arts journalists.

This year saw the launch of **Rooted in Practice: A Mapping of Lao PDR's Creative Ecosystem**, a mapping research highlighting key artistic trends, gaps and opportunities in Lao PDR. The report was launched online and at Mekong Cultural Hub's Meeting Point 2025 in Vientiane. The series aims to provide an entry point for policymakers and professionals to enhance collaborations within and across the 2 regions.

New editions in the **Creative Responses to Sustainability** series - the **Green Guide for India** and the **Philippines** offers practical inspiration and guidance on how arts and cultural organisations can contribute to climate action and sustainability efforts. Updated **Mobility Funding Guides** for **Australia** and **India** further facilitate access to artistic and cultural mobility information, by listing funding opportunities for cross-border exchanges.

Lastly, culture360 continues its **capacity building programme for emerging arts journalists**, in partnership with the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), in recognition of the limited pathways for young arts professionals to specialise in this area.



4.7m+ Website Visitors

26 Articles, Podcasts and Interviews

5 PUBLICATIONS

**Green Guide | India, Philippines**  
**Mapping Research Report | Lao PDR**  
**Updated Mobility Funding Guides | India, Australia**

1 Arts Journalism Matters Fellowship

124k+ Social Media Engagement



[culture360.ASEF.org](http://culture360.ASEF.org) | Video



The arts and culture portal of the Asia-Europe Foundation  
since 2008



## LinkUp | Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab

LinkUp strengthened its role this year as a leading platform shaping Asia-Europe dialogue on cultural policy and international cooperation. By bringing together 16 actors from the government and independent arts sector, it has continued to bridge perspectives that are rarely in conversation yet essential to advancing cultural diplomacy today.

The 3rd edition, held in Yogyakarta, created a dynamic space for these exchanges, with participants collectively rethinking how cultural relations can evolve in an increasingly complex global context. This momentum carried into a high-level roundtable co-organised with Casa Asia within UNESCO's MONDIACULT 2025, which examined how cultural diplomacy can move beyond traditional state-led frameworks to embrace community engagement, care and shared responsibility.

Guided by the insights captured in [ASEF LinkUp Fieldbook | Yogyakarta Iteration](#), this year's discussions reinforced a central idea: collective responsibility must underpin the future of cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe.



**RETHINKING CULTURAL DIPLOMACY TOGETHER**

Perspectives from Asia & Europe

**YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA**

**18 - 21 JUNE 2025**

**PROJECT OUTCOMES**

**ASEF LinkUp  
Fieldbook Yogyakarta  
Iteration**



Co-created by participants  
from LinkUp 2025

**16**  
Participants

**12**  
Countries Represented

**1**  
ASEF LinkUp  
Roundtable

**8**

**Partners**

Co-organised with:  
Ministry of Culture &  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Indonesia

Co-organised with Casa Asia  
as an official side-event of





[LinkUp: Cultural Diplomacy Lab 2025 | Video](#)





## Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest)

The 8th edition of the Festival continued build its legacy as a dynamic platform for cultural exchange between Asia and Europe, celebrating the diversity, creativity and long-standing artistic dialogue between the two regions. Thanks to strengthened international partnerships, this year's AECFest became our most ambitious edition yet, expanding its reach and visibility. Featuring 52 artists from 13 countries, the Festival reached over 3,000 attendees across 11 events, unfolding in four moments: the Curtain Raiser in Poland, the Main Programme in China, and the Closing Curtain in Singapore and Lao PDR.

In 2025, the Festival also deepened its commitment to supporting cross-cultural creation. Through 3 residencies, we provided time, space and resources for 17 artists to develop new collaborative projects, nurturing meaningful exchanges among practitioners from diverse backgrounds.

With extensive media coverage and sold-out events, AECFest 2025 left a lasting imprint, reinforcing the value of artistic cooperation and inspiring renewed connections between Asia and Europe.



### OUR IMPACT AT-A-GLANCE

**8**

Years of Cultural Celebration

**45k**

Live Audience

**32**

Countries Represented

**81**

Artistic Events Showcased

**2025**

PL → CN  
SG → LA

**52**

Artists

**12**

Partner Institutions

**\$320k**

Partner's Contribution (SGD)

**500k+**

Online Reach



[Asia-Europe Cultural Festival 2025 | Video](#)



Copyright © 2025 Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), All rights reserved.