



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025



  
**ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION**

# Table of Contents

About Asia–Europe Foundation	2
About Asia–Europe Meeting	4
ASEF Board of Governors	6
Message from Chair of ASEF Board of Governors	8
Message from ASEF Executive Director	9
ASEF Senior Management Engagements	10
Executive Office	12
ASEF Projects in 2025	16
Communications	18
Culture	24
Education	32
Governance and Sustainable Development	40
Stockpile	46
ASEF in the Media	48
ASEF on the International Stage	50
ASEF at ASEM Events	58
Publications	60
Social Media	62
Digital Transformation	63
Human Resources	64
Financial Information	68



1<sup>st</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM1)  
Singapore, 15 February 1997



# Asia–Europe Foundation

**Our vision** is a world in which Asians and Europeans shape the future together.

**Our mission** is where ASEF brings together the peoples of Asia and Europe to address common challenges by:

- Advancing mutual understanding, collaboration between the peoples of Asia and Europe, through providing opportunities that enable an exchange of ideas;
- Acting as the civil society outreach of Asia and Europe, and working as a platform for dialogue to stimulate permanent networks that reinforce Asia–Europe relations; and
- Acting as an interface between civil society and ASEM governments, consequently contributing to the ASEM process by generating unique recommendations for officials' consideration.

## Our Core Values



Diversity



Respect



Sustainability



Learning



Professionalism



Accountability

## Our Thematic Areas



Culture



Economy



Education



Governance



Media



Public Health



Sustainable Development

# ASEF Brand Refresh

In 2025, as part of our brand refresh, we renewed and reaffirmed the essence of ASEF's identity and character:

1

Fosters people-to-people partnerships, among the nations of Asia and Europe, always collaborating with mutual recognition, regard and respect;

2

Nurtures mutual inter-continental understanding and appreciation across diverse cultures;

3

Advances cooperation and collaboration between Asia and Europe, always by prioritising multilateralism in everything we do.

These values guide ASEF, as we shape our areas of focus and design our projects.

## ASEF's new tagline

emphasises the two continents in close friendship, collaborating alongside, with a common spirit, shared goals and priorities.

**Asia & Europe together**  
www.asef.org

## ASEF's Updated Description

The Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF) is an inter-governmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the peoples, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe.

ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaborations that are cross-cultural and multilateral across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, media, public health and sustainable development.

ASEF has run more than 280 projects, mainly seminars, workshops and lectures, together with over 230 partner organisations.



# 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. Through an informal process, ASEM seeks to enhance mutual understanding, without duplicating bilateral and other multilateral relationships between Asia and Europe. 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 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In addition, ASEM Ministers & Senior Officials also meet in their respective sectoral dialogues.

ASEM started in 1996 with 15 member states of the European Union (EU), seven members of ASEAN, China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. ASEM now comprises 53 partners, namely 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and ASEAN Secretariat.

## 1<sup>st</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM1)

Singapore,  
15 February 1997

Credit: The National Archives of Singapore



# ASEM Partners

## ASIA

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

## EUROPE

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

\* The ASEM Board of Governors decided at its Extraordinary Meeting of 18 May 2022 to temporarily suspend the participation of the Russian Federation in ASEM. The decision will be reviewed in light of discussions in the ASEM Process on this issue.

## Overview



Dialogue and  
Cooperation



Informal  
Political  
Process

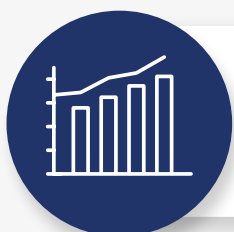


Strengthening  
links between  
Asia and Europe

## Pillars



Political



Economic  
and  
Financial



Socio -  
Cultural

# ASEF Board of Governors

ASEAN Secretariat	HE Nararya S SOEPRAPTO
Australia	Ms Emily FOLLETT
Austria	Ms Bita RASOULIAN
Bangladesh	Mr M Forhadul ISLAM Mr Muhammad Nazmul HOQUE (until May 2025) Mr Mohammed NORE-ALAM (until April 2025) MD Rais Hasan SAROWER (until February 2025)
Belgium	Ambassador Séverine DE POTTER Ambassador Colette TAQUET (until August 2025)
Brunei Darussalam	Pg Hj Roslina Weti Pg Hj Kamaludin Ms SIA Ai Ching (until February 2025)
Bulgaria	Ms Snezhana YOVEVA-DIMITROVA
Cambodia	Ms TOUCH Sopharath
China	Mr JIANG Duan
Croatia	Ms Dunja SIČAJA
Cyprus	High Commissioner Nicholas PANAYIOTOU
Czech Republic	Ambassador Dana BASCHOVÁ Ambassador Michaela FROŇKOVÁ (until August 2025)
Denmark	Ms Lone THORUP
Estonia	Ambassador Peep JAHILO Ambassador Kaili TERRAS (until February 2025)
European Union	Mr Ivo SCHUTTE Mr Ioannis GIOGKARAKIS-ARGYROPOULOS (until November 2025)
Finland	Ambassador Juha MARKKANEN
France	Ambassador Hervé LADSOUS
Germany	Ambassador Dr Bettina FANGHÄNEL
Greece	Ambassador Dr Sotirios MOUSOURIS
Hungary	Ambassador Judit PACH (until August 2025)
India	High Commissioner Shilpak AMBULE
Indonesia	Ambassador Andri HADI Ambassador Soemadi BROTDININGRAT (until December 2025)
Ireland	Mr Pat KELLY
Italy	Ambassador Dante BRANDI
Japan	Ambassador Kuni SATO

Kazakhstan	Ambassador Askar KUTTYKADAM
Korea	Ambassador SUH Chung Ha
Lao PDR	Mr Somboun SIHANATH
Latvia	Professor Inna ŠTEINBUKA
Lithuania	Ambassador Darius GAIDYS
Luxembourg	Mr Robert GOEBBELS
Malaysia	Mr AMIZAL Fadzli Rajali Mr Adlan Mohd SHAFFIEQ (until February 2025)
Malta	Ambassador Helga MIZZI Ambassador Clifford BORG MARKS (until December 2025)
Mongolia	Ambassador Enkhbayar SOSORBARAM
Myanmar	Dr ZAW Minn Aung Mr ZAW Zaw Soe (until August 2025)
Netherlands	Ambassador Anneke ADEMA
New Zealand	High Commissioner Jo TYNDALL
Norway	Ambassador Leif TRANA
Pakistan	High Commissioner Rabia SHAFIQ
Philippines	Ambassador Medardo G MACARAIG
Poland	Ms Joanna DOPIERALA-KONKOLOWICZ
Portugal	Ambassador Carlos PIRES
Romania	Ambassador Iulian BUGA
Singapore	Professor Leo Wee Hin TAN
Slovakia	Ambassador Roman BUŽEK Ambassador Peter SUSKO (until August 2025)
Slovenia	Ms Maja KEZUNOVIĆ KRAŠEK Ms Maja BALANT SLOBODJANAC (until March 2025)
Spain	Mr José PINTOR AGUILAR Mr Javier PARRONDO (until February 2025)
Sweden	Mr Joakim LADEBORN
Switzerland	Ambassador Frank GRÜTTER
Thailand	Ms Chulamanee CHARTSUWAN
United Kingdom	High Commissioner Kara Owen CVO
Viet Nam	Ms TRAN Bao Ngoc

## Message from Chair of ASEF Board of Governors

### SUH Chung Ha

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Governors of the Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF), to extend warm greetings to our readers, partners and colleagues on the publication of the ASEF Annual Report 2025. Amid rapidly evolving geopolitical dynamics, accelerating technological change and shifting societal landscapes, cooperation between Asia and Europe is entering a new phase. In this context, ASEF's mission to foster mutual understanding and partnership between the two regions is more important than ever. Indeed, in an increasingly uncertain and polarised world, platforms such as ASEF—grounded in dialogue, cooperation and trust—are becoming ever more valuable.

In 2025, ASEF demonstrated resilience and continuity despite a challenging global environment, serving as a key platform connecting Asia and Europe. The Foundation achieved notable progress across its core areas, including culture, education, governance, media, public health and sustainable development. Guided by its five key strategic priorities, ASEF delivered impactful projects, strengthened engagement with member countries and enhanced the visibility and impact of its work.



The year 2025 also marked the first full year of leadership by Executive Director Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA and Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei. Under their direction, the Secretariat ensured continuity and stability, while advancing key initiatives in areas such as artificial intelligence, innovation, digital transformation and environmental sustainability. Their leadership in shaping ASEF's strategic direction is highly valued as well.

The year 2026 will be pivotal for ASEF, marking both the conclusion of the current Three-Year Strategy and the preparation of a new Four-Year Strategy. Our shared objective is to ensure that ASEF remains responsive, credible and impactful as the only permanent institution of the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM). The development of the ASEF Strategy Framework 2027–2030, which will guide the Foundation's work over the next four years, will be essential in strengthening ASEF's role as a trusted partner and bridge between Asia and Europe. In this regard, the Secretariat's preparatory efforts, including its early analytical work, provide a solid foundation for future initiatives. Furthermore, in 2026, ASEF is expected to further strengthen cooperation and partnerships by advancing key priorities such as a human-centered approach, digitalisation for development and the green transition.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff of the ASEF Secretariat. Their unwavering commitment, hard work and professionalism are instrumental to ASEF's continued development. I also extend my deep gratitude to our member countries for their generous support, including hosting events and seconding personnel, as well as to my fellow Governors for their invaluable cooperation and contributions. I look forward to working closely with the Board, the Secretariat and all ASEF partners to advance a future grounded in ASEF's core values.

## Message from ASEF Executive Director

# Beata STOCZYŃSKA



2025 was a year of progress and strategic focus for ASEF amid a complex global environment. The Foundation advanced its work through reflection and learning, adapting to Members' priorities amid geopolitical shifts, rapid AI development and climate challenges.

Despite the standstill of the ASEM process, ASEF strengthened its role through projects, partnerships and dialogues, bringing Asians and Europeans together and reaffirming its commitment to shared progress and collaboration.

The establishment of five strategic priorities to guide ASEF's work gained momentum in 2025:

1. Topic of the Year – (i) *Artificial Intelligence, Innovation & Digitalisation* and (ii) *Promoting Green Initiatives, Sustainability and Environment* – These themes were integrated into 80% of ASEF projects, ensuring the Foundation remains relevant to emerging global trends and supports future-focused topics across Asia and Europe.

2. Strengthening Governance and Sustainable Development  
The appointment of a new Director enabled ASEF to set clear strategic goals and elevate ongoing work in public health, governance and sustainable development, while exploring other thematic pillars such as economy and trade.

3. Financial Stability  
Financial sustainability was strengthened through proactive engagement with Members, timely confirmation of contributions and additional in-kind support, resulting in the resolution of long-standing Member contributions, securing additional financial support and increasing in-kind contributions, ensuring long-term operational stability.

4. Increasing Visibility  
ASEF expanded its presence across Asia and Europe through digital engagement, including the launch of Instagram and the AIB Podcast Series and non-thematic visibility activities such as the Friendship Walk, Lecture Series (interactive discussions on topics like *Shaping the Future: Soft Diplomacy in Asia–Europe Relations* and *Finance in Asia–Europe Relations*), Europe Open Day, Library Initiative and Sports sharing session and Diplomats Networking. These activities increased ASEF's public presence, strengthened stakeholder engagement and expanded outreach to new audiences. To further these initiatives, a brand refresh is underway to further enhance ASEF's visibility and messaging, to be implemented in 2026. This refreshed identity defines what ASEF stands for as a platform for people-to-people partnerships, grounded in soft power, fostering cross-cultural understanding and advancing multilateral cooperation, while presenting a clearer and more cohesive articulation of our mission. It will strengthen how we communicate our impact and engage stakeholders across Asia and Europe.

5. Improving Communication  
Initiatives such as *Dialogue with Senior Management* strengthened internal communication. Externally, we maintained timely and frequent interactions with Members on projects and initiatives, deliberately creating opportunities for participation and, for the first time, shaping Board meetings to move beyond purely administrative discussions.

On the front of our core work, we completed 16 major projects across thematic areas addressing regional and global trends, alongside an additional US\$10 million contribution to the WHO Emergency Response, supporting people in need in and around Ukraine.

Our governance remained robust. The 46<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors Meeting and Annual General Meeting in Krakow in June 2025 were successfully held, with our sincere thanks to the Government of Poland for its support, setting the stage for continued strategic engagement. This was followed by the Year-End Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) and Executive Committee (ExCo) meetings in Singapore in November. Collectively, these Board meetings provided strategic guidance on the 2027–2030 Strategy, reviewed ASEF's SWOT analysis and visibility framework and approved projects and budgets.

A significant milestone of the past year was our fruitful engagement with Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian BALAKRISHNAN. This dialogue was vital to discuss the evolving landscape of Asia–Europe relations, specifically focusing on common initiatives in the economy, trade, green transition, environmental sustainability and supply chains.

ASEF also continued to expand its international reach through participation in major forums, including the Boao Forum for Asia's Roundtable on Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation, the Osaka World Forum and strategic panel discussions with the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH). These efforts were further strengthened by more than 30 bilateral consultations that continue to deepen our institutional relationships across both regions.

A year ago, we aimed high to innovate our traditional approaches. This vision was made possible by the dedication and hard work of Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei and the entire ASEF staff. I also extend my sincere appreciation to all ASEF Members, Governors, government representatives, partners and collaborators for their unwavering support and trust. My special thanks to Ambassador Soemadi BRODODININGRAT for his leadership as he concluded his role as Chair of the FAC. At this juncture of transition, we are pleased to welcome the new FAC Chair, Ms Lone THORUP (Denmark). We also warmly welcome the new Chair of ASEF BoG, Ambassador SUH Chung Ha (Korea) and Vice-Chair Mr José PINTOR AGUILAR (Spain). Their expertise will be vital as they take on these Board-level roles to guide and oversee the Foundation's governance.

ASEF remains dedicated to scaling our impact by aligning our initiatives with Member priorities and enhancing our organisational well-being. By promoting multilateralism amidst a shifting geopolitical landscape, we continue to fulfil our core mission: forging a stronger, more collaborative partnership between the people of Asia and Europe.

# ASEF Senior Management Engagements

Executive Director Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA and Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei

## Governors



Meeting with Lithuanian Governor to AEF and Ambassador, HE Darius GAIDYS



Meeting with Mongolian Governor to AEF and Ambassador, HE ENKHBAYAR Sosorbaram



Meeting with Dutch Governor to AEF and Ambassador, HE Anneke ADEMA, as well as meeting with Swedish Governor to AEF Mr Joakim LADEBORN



Meetings with Cyprus Governor to AEF, Ambassador Nicholas PANAYIOTOU, Thai Governor to AEF, Ms Chulamane CHARTSUWAN and Swiss Governor to AEF and Ambassador HE Frank GRÜTTER



Meeting with Portuguese Governor to AEF and Ambassador, HE Carlos PIRES



Meeting with Australian Governor to AEF and Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Emily FOLLETT



Meeting with Czech Governor to AEF and Ambassador HE Dana BASCHOVÁ



Meeting with Japan's Governor to AEF, Ambassador Kuni SATO in Japan



Meeting with Danish Governor to AEF Ms Lone THORUP in Denmark



Meeting with German Governor to AEF and Ambassador, HE Bettina FANGHÄNEL



Meeting with Singapore's Governor to AEF Professor Leo TAN



Meeting with the 2025 Chair of AEF Board of Governors and EU Governor Mr Ioannis GIOGKARAKIS-ARGYROPOULOS

## Officials



At the President's Annual Diplomatic Reception, hosted by President of the Republic of Singapore, HE Tharman SHANMUGARATNAM, at the Singapore National Gallery



Meeting with the Ambassador of Poland, HE Tadeusz CHOMICKI and Polish Special Envoy to the Indo-Pacific Ambassador Witold SOBKOW



Meeting with the EU Delegation to Singapore, led by the Head of Unit for International Cooperation Policy at the European Commission, Ms Nienke BUISMAN



Meeting with Finnish Governor to ASEF and Ambassador, HE Juha MARKKANEN with Director for South Asia & Southeast Asia at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mr Veikko KILJUNEN



Meeting with Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs HE Dr Vivian BALAKRISHNAN



Meeting with Ambassador of Spain, HE Mercedes ALONSO FRAYLE and Director General for North America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Mr Luis FONSECA SÁNCHEZ



Meeting with the Ambassador of France, HE Stephen MARCHISIO



Meeting with Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India, Ambassador P KUMARAN, in India

## Partners & Collaborators



The Orchard Forum – Advisory Committee Meeting at ASEF



Visits to Singaporean educational institutions - Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Singapore University of Social Sciences and Temasek Polytechnic



Meeting with partner institutions in Brussels, Belgium



Meeting with the Singapore National Youth Orchestra



Visit to the Stockpile Project warehouse in Singapore, supported by the Government of Japan



Meeting with Regional Director for the World Health Organization/Europe Dr Hans KLUGE in Denmark

# Executive Office

The Executive Office (EO) plays a central role in supporting ASEF Senior Management in advancing the Foundation's mission to strengthen dialogue, understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Acting as the link between governance and operations, the EO ensures management decisions are effectively implemented in line with the strategic direction, policies and priorities set by the ASEF Board of Governors.

As a key function within ASEF, the Executive Office supports day-to-day management and strategic planning, helping to ensure organisational stability, efficiency and adaptability to a changing environment.

Externally, the EO strengthens ASEF's engagement with governments, partners and civil society by ensuring compliance with institutional frameworks, supporting outreach and fostering collaboration. It safeguards member interests and ensures programmes and initiatives align with their priorities, reinforcing ASEF's visibility, impact and relevance.



## 46<sup>th</sup> ASEF Board of Governors' Meeting

### Krakow, Poland

26–27 June 2025

The 46<sup>th</sup> ASEF Board of Governors Meeting (ASEFBoG46) was held in Kraków, Poland, bringing together Governors and representatives from 47 ASEF members. The meeting focused on reviewing ASEF's overall strategic direction, financial matters, visibility efforts and future activities. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the approval of 16 project proposals for implementation in 2026. Prior to the Board Meeting, the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) and the Executive Committee (ExCo) met on 24 and 25 June 2025.

The Board Meeting took place at the International Cultural Centre in Kraków and featured a keynote lecture by Professor Jacek Purchla on "Kraków in the European Core." The programme also highlighted the cultural dimension of Asia–Europe cooperation through the Curtain Raiser of the Asia–Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2025, a contemporary dance performance

at the Manggha Museum, followed by a Gala Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

The meeting concluded with a cultural visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mine. ASEF expressed its appreciation to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its support and hospitality, as well as to all participants for their constructive contributions.



## Year-End FAC and ExCo Meetings

### Singapore

26–27 November 2025

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) and Executive Committee (ExCo) met in Singapore to discuss matters related to ASEF, ensuring effective governance and strategic oversight. The meetings provided a platform to align priorities, review progress and strengthen decision-making in support of ASEF's mission. Discussions also focused on ASEF's next four years' Strategy 2027–2030.



## ACTIVITIES

## The Asia–Europe Friendship Walk 2025

### Theme: Footsteps for Greener Asia-Europe Connections

On 1 March 2025, ASEF hosted the first Asia–Europe Friendship Walk, celebrating strong partnership between Asia and Europe. Taking place in conjunction with ASEM Day (1 March) and ASEF Day (15 February), the event brought together ASEF Governors, embassy representatives from ASEM countries, youth participants, partners and ASEF staff for a dynamic and engaging walk through Singapore’s cityscape.



Starting at the Asian Civilisations Museum, passing through the Downtown area and concluding at Marina Bay Sands, the participants enjoyed a scenic route while engaging in interactive quizzes on sustainability and ASEF’s work. The lively atmosphere and conversations along the way reflected and reinforced ASEF’s mission of fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and stronger people-to-people connections between Asia and Europe.

## 2025 ASEF Lecture Series

### I Panel discussion: “Shaping the Future: Soft Diplomacy in Asia–Europe Relations”

The 2025 ASEF Lecture Series was officially launched with a panel discussion on “Shaping the Future: Soft Diplomacy in Asia–Europe Relations”, exploring the role of soft diplomacy in building relationships, trust and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEF was honoured to welcome a distinguished panel of speakers: former Polish Ambassador to Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar, Prof Bogdan GÓRALCZYK, Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN, HE Ambassador Sujiro SEAM, National University of Singapore, Asia

Research Institute, Inter-Asian Engagements Research Cluster Leader, Prof Tim WINTER and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Asia-Pacific Regional Director, Ms WU Ye-Min. Chair of the St Gallen Symposium Singapore Chapter, Mr Tommy KOH, moderated the session. Opening remarks were made by the Director of the Centre for Europe, University of Warsaw, Prof Kamil ZAJĄCZKOWSKI and ASEF Executive Director, Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA. Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei gave closing remarks.



## II A Hungarian Explorer's Sojourn in Asia

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the ASEF Lecture Series took place featuring an exclusive book launch at the Foundation's premises!

In collaboration with the Magyarország Szingapúri Nagykövetsége / Embassy of Hungary in Singapore and Sunway University Press, we explored the incredible journey of renowned Hungarian naturalist and explorer János XÁNTUS through the launch of the book "Xántus and/es Borneo: A Hungarian Naturalist in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Sarawak" by Drs Tamás KISS, Balázs VENKOVITS and Mr Christopher HIGGS. The book is a celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the Hungarian explorer János XÁNTUS.



ASEF Deputy Executive Director ZHANG Lei and Hungarian Ambassador and ASEF Governor Judit PACH welcomed friends from the cultural sector, academia and diplomatic missions to meet and discuss the book with the author.

The book's three authors presented a glimpse into XÁNTUS' travels and discoveries through Asia and in particular, Borneo, followed by an animated panel discussion and book signing session. A truly inspiring afternoon of exploration, history and discovery!



## III Finance in Asia–Europe Relations

The Asia–Europe Foundation was honoured to host Professor Dariusz WÓJCIK for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final ASEF Lecture Series of 2025 on "Finance in Asia–Europe Relations".

The event was opened by Executive Director Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA, who delivered welcoming remarks, setting the tone for an engaging lecture by Professor Dariusz WÓJCIK, Professor of Financial Geography at the National University of Singapore and Honorary Research Associate at the University of Oxford.

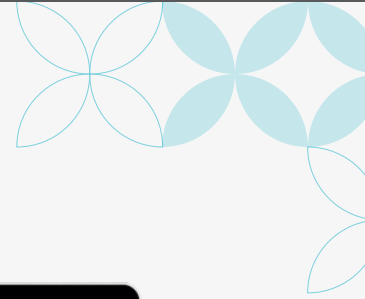


Professor WÓJCIK's presentation provided unique insights into the evolving financial landscapes across Asia and Europe, drawing from his latest book, *Atlas of Finance* and exploring how financial flows, institutions and innovations shape interregional relations.

The session concluded with closing remarks from Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei, who emphasised the importance of strengthened Asia–Europe collaboration in finance to address emerging opportunities and challenges.



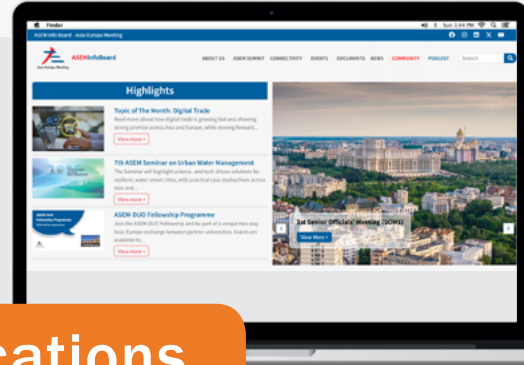
# ASEF Projects in 2025



ASEF Workshop for Journalists



## Communications



ASEM InfoBoard (AIB) 2025

Asia–Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest)



ASEF Link-Up



## Culture

culture360 Website



10<sup>th</sup> ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC10)



Asia–Europe Science and Technology Diplomacy Initiative for Young Leaders



6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS6)



**Education**

18<sup>th</sup> ASEF Classroom Network (ASEFClassNet18)



6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory (ASEFInnoLab6)

13<sup>th</sup> ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (ASEFPDT13)



23<sup>rd</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHR23)



Capacity-Building on Women, Peace and Security



**Governance and Sustainable Development**



Multi-country workshop: Mainstreaming Antimicrobial Resistance Interventions into Primary Healthcare



Climate Change and Public Health – the Environment’s Impact on Infectious Diseases



High-level Meeting on Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies (PHEs): Leaving no one behind

# Communications

The ASEF Communications Department (COM) is responsible for ASEF's corporate communications and custodian of ASEF's brand and strategic messaging. We manage ASEF's digital communication assets, corporate publications and organise or publicise events to raise awareness of ASEF and its work across seven thematic areas. Every year, we hold a journalist-related project to facilitate networking opportunities between media professionals from Asia and Europe. COM is also administrator of the ASEM InfoBoard (AIB), a website mandated by ASEM Foreign Ministers in 2004.

Key highlights in 2025 include ASEF's brand refresh, enhancement of the ASEF website and launch of ASEF's Instagram account. As part of ASEF's outreach, we connected with ASEF Partner embassies and hosted a Sharing Session between four Aquatic Olympians and international school students. Ahead of international negotiations in Geneva, the ASEF Workshop for Journalists focussed on "Challenges of Dealing with Plastic Waste". We also piloted a new podcast series on the AIB to discuss key issues affecting both regions.

**8**

social media platforms

**3**

AIB podcast episodes

**1**

journalist project



# ASEF Workshop for Journalists

## “Challenges of Dealing with Plastic Waste”

**Singapore**  
19–22 May 2025



The five-day programme gathered 22 journalists from 20 countries and featured panel sessions on topics being covered at the Global Plastic Treaty negotiations, including circularity, equity and just transition, innovation and financing. A total of 18 speakers, including experts, business and NGO representatives, officials and ASEF Governors, contributed to the discussions. The workshop resulted in nine published news articles and participant-produced videos.

Funded by



Co-funded by  
the European Union



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK

Supported by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026



# ASEM InfoBoard (AIB)

Online  
Throughout 2025



We continued to administer and strengthen the ASEM InfoBoard (AIB) to maintain awareness of the ASEM Process and provide articles about key developments in Asia and Europe. In 2025, COM featured 11 topics under the Topic of the Month (TOM) series and produced three pilot podcast episodes on: Poland's EU Presidency, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Green Finance.

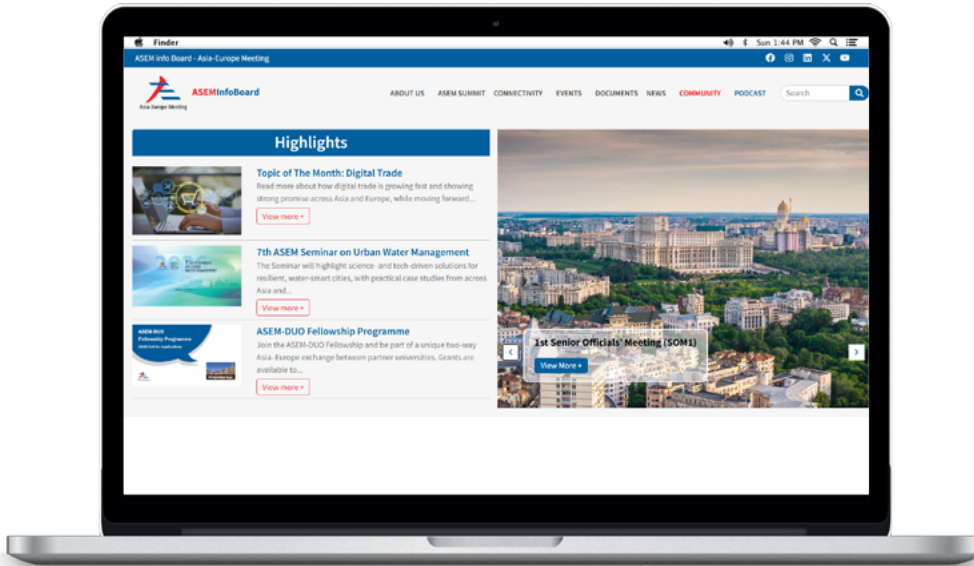
### Funded by



### General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEM's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2025



**ASEMInfoBoard**

7 March 2025  
**How will Poland steer the EU and EU's relations with Asia during its 6-month rotating presidency and beyond?**

**AIB**  
PODCAST

Status: Available Now    29:10 minutes

Also listen on  
 Sound cloud  
 Spotify

Download

### Speakers

- Amb Witold Sobków**  
Ambassador and Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
- Prof Evi Fitriani**  
Professor of International Relations Faculty of Social and Political Sciences Universitas Indonesia
- Prof Dr Sven Biscop**  
Director - Europe in the World Programme, Egmont Professor - Ghent University Member - Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences of Belgium
- Dr Yeo Lay Hwee**  
Moderator Director of the European Union Centre in Singapore

## ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme 2026 Call for Applications



## Topic of the Month Green Finance



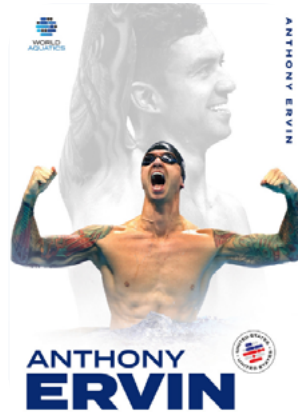
ACTIVITIES

# Olympic Legends Sharing Session

Singapore, ASEF office  
31 July 2025



In July, we collaborated with the World Aquatics Championships (WAC) Singapore 2025 Organising Committee to host the Olympic Legends Sharing Session for students from international schools. The event brought together 45 participants from the Australian International School, Japanese School in Singapore and United World College – Southeast Asia, who met Olympic champions Cate CAMPBELL (Australia), Anthony ERVIN (USA), Kosuke KITAJIMA (Japan) and Melissa WU (Australia). A collaborated reel shared on Instagram generated more than 7k organic views.



# Afternoon Tea & Info Session with Embassy Representatives

We organised the first Afternoon Tea & Info Session to strengthen engagement with ASEF Partner embassies and explore opportunities for collaboration. The session welcomed 19 embassy representatives and introduced ASEF's mission, flagship projects and current areas of work.

**Singapore, ASEF office**  
12 June 2025

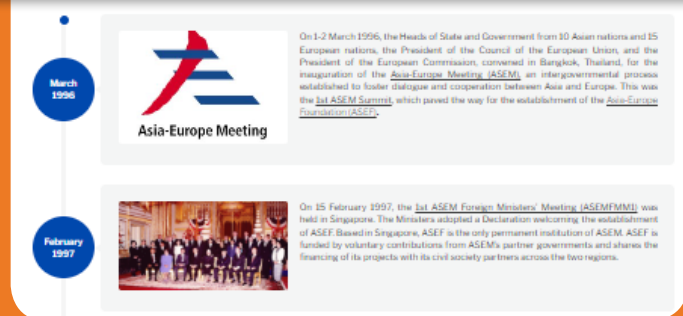
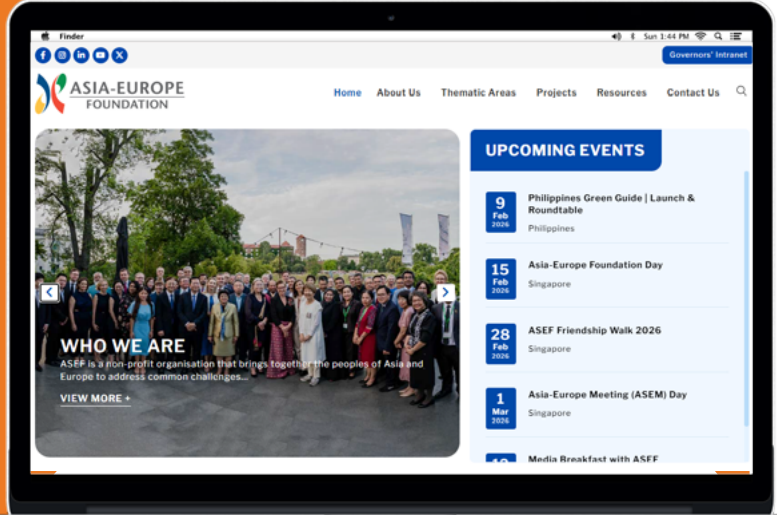
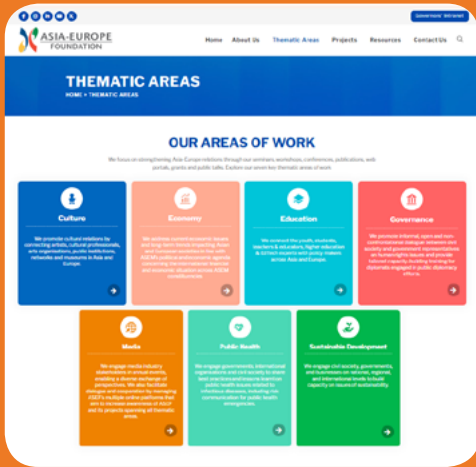


# ASEF Website (asef.org) Enhancement

Online  
Throughout 2025



We continued to enhance the ASEF website, ASEF's primary platform for showcasing its projects and activities. These changes focused on improving overall user experience, especially the organisational layout, presentation and technical functions.

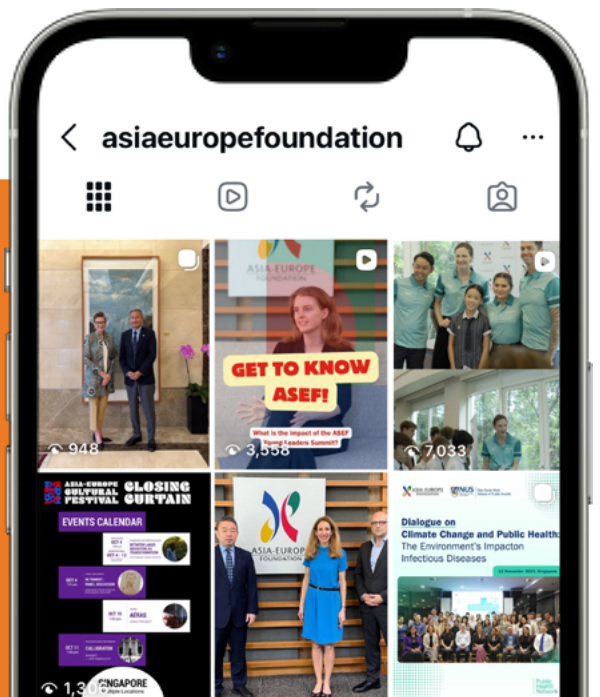


# ASEF Instagram account

Online  
10 February 2025



To strengthen ASEF's digital presence, we launched the official ASEF Instagram account (@asiaeuropfoundation) in February 2025, to complement ASEF's Facebook, LinkedIn and X channels. Overall in 2025, we achieved a reach of 10,043,090 and 781,744 of engagements across all 15 ASEF social media platforms.





# Culture

ASEF's work in Culture strengthens cultural relations by linking artists, cultural practitioners, arts organisations, public institutions, networks and museums across Asia and Europe.

We connect arts communities in the two regions through online platforms, hybrid residencies, arts festivals and bi-regional dialogue. We address existing gaps in Asia–Europe cultural cooperation by expanding access to information, strengthening professional capacities, facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange and promoting artistic diversity.

The cross-disciplinary nature of our programmes brings together artists, heritage and museum professionals, arts administrators and policymakers, alongside experts from related fields such as environmental sustainability, media and academia.

At the policy level, we act as a conduit for the voices of arts communities, engaging governments in Asia and Europe, regional bodies such as the EU and ASEAN and international organisations including UNESCO. In parallel, we translate the recommendations of ASEM partners into concrete cultural initiatives and programmes implemented by ASEF.

50

events  
organised

62

knowledge-based  
products  
produced

33

collaborations with  
institutional partners  
secured



# ASEF's work in CULTURE



## culture360



**Online**  
Throughout 2025

ASEF's arts and culture platform, culture360.asef.org, provides access to relevant and updated information on arts, heritage and the creative industries across Asia and Europe. Highlights from the project's year-round activities for 2025 include the launch of five new publications focusing on arts and sustainability and cultural mobility in Australia, India, the Philippines and Pakistan; five podcasts on mobility funding and sustainability; and, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Arts Journalism Matters, a capacity building programme for emerging arts journalists. Through both online and offline activities, culture360 engaged policymakers, arts professionals and researchers, further facilitating cross-cultural engagement and knowledge exchange across Asia and Europe.

In partnership with



Funded by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Fund for the previous year, as of 01 January 2020

# culture360

## Arts Journalism Matters: On the Ground

**Riga, Latvia, 29–30 April 2025**  
**Seoul, Korea, 27–30 May 2025**



In partnership with

**ON  
THE  
MOVE**



As a spin-off activity of the Arts Journalism Matters Fellowship, culture360 organised “Arts Journalism Matters: On the Ground”, to give emerging journalists an immersive, first-hand experience by covering key arts events on-site. Organised in partnership with On the Move, the European network for cultural mobility, and the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies, IFACCA, the fellowship brought Indonesian arts manager, Theodora Agni, to Riga, Latvia to cover the proceedings and happenings of the Cultural Mobility Forum, and Malaya Del Rosario, an independent arts and creative economy consultant from the Philippines, to Seoul, South Korea, for insights from the 10<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Arts and Culture.

## Letters to Creatives

**Online (Nationalities/  
Countries involved: Australia,  
Brunei Darussalam)**

April and June 2025



In this new video series, emerging arts and cultural professionals offer first-hand knowledge, practical advice, learnings and reflections on their experiences as creatives. The series featured Claire Wilson, a freelance researcher, writer and editor hailing from Australia, who shared her perspective on working independently across borders, within in the cultural field. Bruneian content producer/creator in the arts and culture sector, Faiq Airudin, also provided his insights on nurturing online communities and balancing one’s digital professional profile and personal life.



## Arts Journalism Matters Fellowship 2025: The Green Angle

**Online**

10 Nov – 12 Dec 2025

In partnership with



The Arts Journalism Matters Fellowship, a hybrid residency and mentorship programme for emerging arts journalists, returned for its 4<sup>th</sup> iteration, in collaboration with the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU). With this year’s theme of sustainability, the programme enabled three emerging journalists from the Philippines to reflect upon the significance of local approaches to sustainability within the creative sector, under the guidance of a mentor.

## Opportunities for Mobility and More: Podcast Series



Online



First launched in 2025, the Opportunities for Mobility and More Podcast series expands on the insights gathered through the Mobility Funding Guides. This year, four new episodes were produced in conjunction with the launch of the updated Mobility Funding Guide for India and Australia. ASEF Culture invited researchers and other key industry figures to share their observations on the findings from the Guides, providing deeper analysis and food-for-thought on potential future developments in funding for arts and culture mobility.

## Media Partnerships with ASEF culture360

Singapore, Indonesia, India, Japan



Since 2012, ASEF culture360 has supported over 69 arts events through media partnerships in Asia and Europe. This year's media partnerships supported the following events: the inaugural Guwahati Asian Film Festival in India; the International Community Arts Festival Hub Singapore; Belum-Sudah (Not-Yet) Performance Festival in Indonesia; the Dharamshala International Film Festival in India; and the Yokohama International Performing Arts Meeting (YPAM) in Japan. Through a variety of dedicated communication activities including articles, interviews and dedicated social media campaigns, the media partnerships aim to increase the visibility and outreach of the events and organisations selected beyond national or regional focus.

### Guwahati Asian Film Festival 2025

Guwahati, India  
7–9 February 2025



### Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025

Dharamshala, India  
30 October – 2 November 2025



### International Community Arts Festival Hub Singapore

Singapore  
12–15 June 2025



### Yokohama International Performing Arts Meeting 2025

Yokohama, Japan  
28 November – 14 December 2025



### Belum-Sudah (Not-Yet) Performance Festival 2025

Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
25–31 July 2025



# ASEF LinkUp

## Asia–Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab 2025



**Online, Yogyakarta (Indonesia)**  
18–21 June 2025

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ASEF LinkUp brought together 16 mid-career participants from the government and independent arts sectors in Indonesia to reflect on the topic of collective responsibility in cultural diplomacy. ASEF LinkUp continues to strengthen its role in shaping Asia–Europe dialogue on cultural policy and international cooperation. Following the in-person activities in Yogyakarta, the participants co-created the ASEF LinkUp Fieldbook, consolidating key insights and knowledge from the 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration of the “Lab”. The outcomes of this edition were also discussed during the roundtable “Rethinking Cultural Diplomacy Together: Perspectives from Asia and Europe”, organised in Barcelona, Spain in September as an official side-event of UNESCO MONDIACULT 2025.



Funded by



Co-funded by  
the European Union



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK

In partnership with



MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2025

Supported by



Museum  
Sonobudoyo  
Yogyakarta



unesco



# Roundtable at UNESCO MONDIACULT 2025: Rethinking Cultural Diplomacy Together



**Barcelona, Spain**  
25 September 2025

Co-organised with Casa Asia, the roundtable invited three arts sector speakers from China, Spain and Indonesia to discuss how cultural diplomacy can move beyond state and institutions to embrace communities, care and collective responsibility. An official side event of UNESCO MONDIACULT 2025, the conversation was also closely aligned with one of the priority areas of Mondiacult 2025, focusing on cultural rights and equitable access.

Funded by



Supported by



In partnership with



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEP's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026



# Asia–Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2025



**Kraków (Poland), Shanghai (China), Singapore, Vientiane (Lao PDR)**

Curtain Raiser:  
26 June 2025

Main Festival:  
3 September – 9 October 2025

Closing Curtain:  
4–15 October 2025

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the AECFest featured 59 artists from 13 countries and reached over 3,000 attendees—including numerous government representatives—across 11 events in Poland, China, Singapore and Lao PDR, significantly increasing the festival’s visibility among key stakeholders. Running from June to October, the festival delivered its biggest programme to date, including visual arts, contemporary dance, theatre, film and more, while highlighting the value of artistic cooperation and fostering renewed connections between artists from Asia and Europe. In addition to showcasing the best of Asia–Europe collaborations in the arts, the festival supported 17 artists across both regions through 3 residency programmes. Earlier in the year, the festival also launched its revamped website, enhancing its branding and visibility.



AECFest Closing Curtain Singapore - Aeras Q&A @Naoko Kaneda



AECFest 2025 Curtain Raiser Krakow Poland 'Looking Out and Anchoring Gaze Within the Matter Of' © Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland

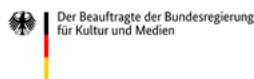


AECFest Main Festival Shanghai - Bigi-Paoletti © Fondazione Musica per Roma\_MUSA

Funded by



Supported by



In partnership with



Venue partners



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEP's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026



# AECFest Residency Programme



The 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration of the Asia–Europe Cultural Festival’s Residency Programme featured three residencies supporting 17 Asian and European artists. The programme provided dedicated time, space and resources for developing new collaborative projects, nurturing meaningful exchanges among practitioners from diverse backgrounds. The works borne from the programme were featured within the festival’s programme, reflecting ASEF’s commitment to cross-cultural collaborations and exchange at every step, from development to presentation.

**AECFest Residency: Choreographing the Living City**  
 Krakow, Poland | February – June 2025  
 Nationalities/Countries Involved: Japan, Poland

**AECFest Residency: Calligraton**  
 Italy and Online | 1 – 30 March 2025  
 Nationalities/Countries Involved: Germany, Italy, Japan

**AECFest Residency: Déraciné Rhizome**  
 Online | November – December 2025  
 Nationalities/Countries Involved: China, Germany, Japan, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand, Viet Nam





# Education

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 and 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 bring the voices of students and universities into decision-making spaces and inform education policies with evidence-based research.

In the field of Education, ASEF implemented five projects, with 18 activities online and offline, engaged 2,000+ participants from 50 countries directly and reached 3,600,000 online audience among whom over 1,000,000 engaged with us.

**2,405**

individual learning journeys

**55**

partner collaborations

**20**

presentations at external events



# 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS6) Leadership & Society 5.0



**Navigators Training:**  
June 2025,  
Warsaw, Poland

**Knowledge Building & Leadership in Action Training:**

July – September 2025,  
Online

**Youth Summit:**

29 September –  
5 October,  
Osaka, Japan

“ One insight that really empowered me during the Summit was realising how much impact a single person or a small group can have when they combine creativity, knowledge and action. ”

Ms Sara TAGLIABRACCI,  
Italy

The 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit was a leadership development programme focused on the theme of “Leadership & Society 5.0” and incorporated three spheres for youth leadership: 1) self-leadership (you), 2) team leadership (we), and 3) societal leadership (all).

The programme brought together 89 Young Leaders from 50 countries from diverse academic and professional backgrounds across the two regions through four phases:

- **Navigators Training | June 2025, Warsaw, Poland**  
Organised in partnership with and hosted by the College of Europe Natolin, the four-day training brought together 19 ASEFEdu Alumni for capacity building to prepare for their subsequent roles in programme as resource persons.
- **Knowledge Building Phase | July – August 2025, Online**  
The five-week long online phase featured workshops, public webinars and interactive dialogues on the “Future of the Economy, Environment and People and Work”, reaching an additional 204 attendees.
- **Leadership in Action Phase | August – September 2024, Online**  
The participants were put together in teams and were given the task to collate case studies for ways to solve societal challenges using technology in Asia and Europe – each group were working based on challenge statements developed in collaboration with the UNDP Movers Programme.
- **In-Person Youth Summit | 29 September – 5 October, Osaka, Japan**  
Organised in partnership with the Japan Hub for Innovative Global Education (JIGE) and hosted by Kansai University between 29 September – 5 October 2025, the Youth Summit brought together 89 participants to Osaka, Japan for a week of people-to-people dialogue exchanges, networking and learning in a local context. ASEFYLS6 was organised in conjunction with Osaka World Expo 2025.



In partnership with



Supported by



Knowledge Partners



Co-funded by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026

# Asia–Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Initiative for Young Leaders

**Country Focused**

**Workshop Series:**

April – July, Online

**ASEAN Science**

**Diplomacy Workshop:**

1–2 December, Manila, Philippines

**Asia–Europe Training**

**on Sci&Tech Diplomacy:**

23 October – 4 December, Online

**Asia–Europe Youth**

**Summit on Sci&Tech**

**Diplomacy:**

14–18 December, Copenhagen, Denmark

In 2025, recognising the value of connecting young professionals in Science and Technology Diplomacy, we delivered a series of learning opportunities for those engaged in international collaboration across Asia and Europe. These efforts were implemented through four key activities:

- Country Focused Workshop Series on “Navigating Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystems” | 15 April – 22 July, Online

This workshops series explored Science and Technology Diplomacy Ecosystems in Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Thailand and Indonesia. Each series examined the roles of Government, Academia and Research Institutions and Businesses shaping the national ecosystem.

- Science Diplomacy Workshop for Young Researchers and Policymakers in the ASEAN Region | 1–2 December, Manila, Philippines

Organised in partnership with the Philippines’ Department of Science and Technology (DOST) the workshop convened 12 emerging researchers and policymakers from ASEAN to explore how science diplomacy can address regional and global challenges.

- Asia–Europe Training on Science and Technology Diplomacy | 23 October – 4 December, Online

Organised for the first time by ASEF, this seven-week long online training gathered 107 young diplomats, government officials and research and science managers to develop their knowledge of science and technology diplomacy through webinars, workshops and simulation games. Selected webinars were open to the public.

- Asia–Europe Youth Summit on Science and Technology Diplomacy | 14–18 December, Copenhagen, Denmark

40 participants from 29 countries joined the Youth Summit, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Central European Scientific Society for Innovation and Technology (CESSIT), alongside the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Science Diplomacy Conference, where they presented a Youth Communiqué to the wider diplomatic and scientific community.



In partnership with



CESSIT’s contribution to the programme is Co-Funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ project ‘CatalySD - Catalysing Science Diplomacy: New Career Perspectives, Curricula and International Partnerships’.

Find out more about the Country Focused Workshop Series:



Funded by



Read more about the training and Youth Summit and read the Asia–Europe Youth Communiqué on Science and Technology Diplomacy here:



Supported by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF’s General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2025

Country Focused Workshop Series organised in partnership with



# 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory (ASEFInnoLab6)

## Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an AI-Powered Future



### Training and Team Building:

#### Building:

14 May – 23 July 2025,  
Online

#### Conferences:

14–17 October 2025,  
Shanghai, China

3–7 November 2025,  
Manila, Philippines

2–5 December 2025,  
Košice, Slovakia

“ ASEFInnoLab6 reminded me that true innovation emerges not only from technology, but from the meeting of diverse minds, when different cultures listen to one another and find a shared rhythm. ”

Mohammad ROKIB,  
Universitas Negeri  
Surabaya, Indonesia

The ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory project continued with its sixth run under the theme “Universities’ Role in Developing Skills for an AI-Powered Future” focused on the collaborative development of academic papers and micro-credential programmes.

The ASEFInnoLab6 was the biggest edition to date, with 212 participants from 39 Asian and European countries engaged in the online Training and Team Building Phase from 14 May to 23 July 2025. Participants learned from experts, exchanged knowledge and drafted academic papers or micro-credential programmes in teams of four to six over seven weeks, with top performers getting invited to one of three conferences:

- Conference in Shanghai, China | 14–17 October 2025  
Organised in partnership with Fudan University, the event brought together 33 colleagues from 19 countries to develop academic papers.
- Conference in Manila, Philippines | 3–7 November 2025  
36 colleagues from 23 countries in the micro-credentials track were hosted at De La Salle University to develop their joint micro-credential programmes.
- Conference in Košice, Slovakia | 2–5 December 2025  
The event hosted by the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University was held in conjunction with ASEM Education Expert Group on Digitalisation and AI and engaged 53 colleagues from 21 countries.

Project alumni can join the Asia–Europe for Artificial Intelligence (AE4AI) Network, which ASEF continues to foster.



Implemented by



復旦大學  
FUDAN UNIVERSITY



UNIVERZITA  
PAVLÁ JOZEFA ŠAFÁRIKA  
V KOŠICIACH



De La Salle University

Supported by



Funded by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026

# 10<sup>th</sup> ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC10)

## [Un]debated Ways of Rethinking Higher Education



### Expert Group Meetings:

1 March – 20 November,  
Online

### Policy Dialogue:

20–21 November,  
Bucharest, Romania

“ The ARC10 Policy Dialogue empowered me by demonstrating how meaningful collaboration between countries can shape more inclusive and forward-looking higher education policies. ”

Alibek MADIBEKOV,  
Director, Higher Education National Development Center,  
Kazakhstan

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 dialogue platform for multi-stakeholder discussions that shape the education landscape in Asia and Europe.

The second year of ARC10 focused on facilitating the work of the ASEM Education Expert Group on SDGs and Education (EG1), where ASEF serves as co-chair along with the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority and the Ministry of Education of Thailand. The EG1 conducted three meetings online, and a fourth in a hybrid format as part of the ARC10 Policy Dialogue organised on 20-21 November 2025 in Bucharest, Romania as a side-event to the ASEMME10 first Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM1). The Policy Dialogue titled “Reimagining SDGs and Education Post-2030” brought together over 20 policymakers and education leaders to exchange insights and jointly work on a communiqué for the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEMME10) in 2026.



In collaboration with



Funded by



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK



Co-funded by  
the European Union

General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2025

# 18<sup>th</sup> ASEF Classroom Network (ASEFClassNet18)

## School Collaboration: Effective, Inclusive and Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED) Design



### Self- Team- and Action- Learning Phase:

12 May – 30 September, Online

### School Collaboration Conference:

6–10 October, Maribor, Slovenia

“ Having worked in educational leadership for over 20 years, across three countries, I can honestly say that my involvement with this project has been one of the most transformative experiences of my career. This journey has shaped my growth from local leadership to a globally connected, empathetic and purpose-driven educational leader. ”

Susana TOMAZ,  
Futures Education and AI Lead, New Zealand

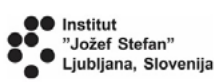
The 18<sup>th</sup> ASEFClassNet School Collaboration track empowered over 300 participants from 35 countries, secondary school teachers and leaders who developed 15 Innovative Teaching Practices together as key outcomes of their professional development training. The key capacity building activities were:

- Self - Team - and Action - Learning Phase | 12 May – 30 September, Online  
From May to June 2025, participants engaged in expert-led webinars and workshops to build foundational knowledge of AI in Education (AIED). From June to August 2025, they worked in small teams with alumni mentors to collaboratively design an AI-integrated Innovative Teaching Practice (ITP). In September 2025, participants tested their ITPs in real classroom settings, applying what they learned and further strengthened their pedagogical skills.
- School Collaboration Conference | 6-10 October 2025, Maribor, Slovenia

The programme concluded with an on-site conference with 100+ attendees from 30+ Asian and European countries to showcase their work and celebrate the best work with ASEFClassNet18 Innovation Awards.



Co-organised with



Funded by



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



From the People of Japan

General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026

# 18<sup>th</sup> ASEF Classroom Network (ASEFClassNet18)

## Faculty Collaboration: Effective, Inclusive and Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED) Design



### Cross-Faculty Dialogues and Collaboration:

May – October 2025,  
Online

### Faculty Collaboration Conference:

11–16 November 2025,  
Zhuhai, China

“ Working within such a highly multicultural and multilingual community significantly enriched my professional experience. It has shaped my thinking around inclusivity in diverse classroom contexts and the role AI tools can play, while broadening my vision and confidence to pursue AIED research. ”

Dr Imogen CASEBOURNE,  
Research Lead,  
Innovation Lab, Digital  
Education Futures  
Initiative (DEFI), Hughes  
Hall, University of  
Cambridge, United  
Kingdom

The 18<sup>th</sup> ASEFClassNet Faculty Collaboration track empowered over 60 fellows from 28 countries, teacher trainers, academics and researchers working at Higher Education Institutions as well as Ministry of Education Associated Teacher Training Institutes. The activities conducted were:

- Cross-Faculty Dialogues and Collaboration | May – October 2025, Online

From May to June 2025, fellows participated in dialogue sessions to exchange knowledge and form interdisciplinary teams around shared publication ideas. From July to October 2025, teams independently co-authored their book chapters, supported by a mid-September peer-feedback session to refine their work ahead of the conference presentation.

- Faculty Collaboration Conference | 11–16 November 2025, Zhuhai, China

Hosted by Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus, over 60 participants gathered for a five-and-a-half-day on-site conference to present their final papers on the topic, which will be included in the United Nations University (UNU) AI and Sustainable Development book series. The conference also deepened cross-faculty collaboration, supported the exploration of spin-off project ideas and strengthened sustainable academic partnerships. It was organised in conjunction with the International AIED Symposium and the 7<sup>th</sup> China Education Innovation Expo.



In partnership with



未来教育学院  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE



unesco  
Centre for the Research  
in Artificial Intelligence  
under the auspices of UNESCO

IRC AI  
International Research Centre  
for Artificial Intelligence  
under the auspices of UNESCO



Institut  
"Jozef Stefan"  
Ljubljana, Slovenija



Funded by



People's Republic  
of China



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



From  
the People of Japan

General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026

## ASEF EmpowerED Projects

### Online

June – October 2025

#### Navigating Wellbeing in the Age of AI

9 June – 7 July 2025

#### AI & Equity: Navigating the Divide

1–22 July 2025

#### Climate Alliance

25 July – 22 August 2025

#### Empowering Educators with AI and Google Tools

17 August – 7 September 2025

#### The Black Swan Project: Navigating Uncertainty in an Unpredictable World

14 July – 11 August 2025

#### FLARE - Flipped Learning and AI for Reflective Education

25 August – 15 September 2025

#### Teach and Thrive: Outdoor Learning for Wellbeing

9–30 September 2025



Initiated in 2025, the ASEFClassNet EmpowerEd Projects celebrate the leadership, creativity and courage of educators across Asia and Europe who are reimagining education in response to today's most pressing challenges. Designed and led by ASEFClassNet alumni, this year we offered seven teacher-driven short courses for the broader community. The courses addressed real-world issues such as ethical AI integration, climate action, uncertainty, equity and wellbeing. Rooted in collaboration, inclusion and action-based learning, the EmpowerEd Projects engaged 213 participants from Asia and Europe. They demonstrated the power of educators as designers, innovators and changemakers, creating locally relevant solutions with global resonance.

“ **Leading an EmpowerEd Project virtually, then presenting it at the International AIED Symposium expanded my perspective on AI in Education, enabling me to engage not only as a classroom teacher, but also as a curriculum designer, teacher trainer and policymaker.** ”

Mr Yuqing LONG,  
AI Coordinator and Mathematics Educator,  
Tsinghua International University and School,  
China

“ **A particularly empowering insight I gained while leading my EmpowerEd project was the realisation that AI's greatest value in education lies not in providing answers, but in deepening questions. This shift empowers educators, moving us from knowledge transmitters to indispensable facilitators of complex, dialogic inquiry, elevating human roles in critical thinking and ethical judgment.** ”

Ms Christina KOUTIDOU,  
Teacher, Deputy Headmistress and School  
Mentor, 4<sup>th</sup> Lyceum of Serres, Greece

# Governance and Sustainable Development

ASEF facilitates policy dialogue between Asia and Europe in support of the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2025, the thematic areas of Governance and Public Health were prioritised.

In the field of Governance, ASEF promotes informal, open and non-confrontational dialogue between civil society and government representatives, particularly in human rights. Furthermore, ASEF strives to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among ASEM Partners by providing tailored capacity-building training for early-/mid-career diplomats and government officials engaged in public diplomacy efforts and the promotion of gender equality.

In Public Health, ASEF brings together governments, international organisations and civil society to promote multisectoral intellectual exchange on public health and related fields, with a focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) through the ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN).

6

on-site events organised

421

participants engaged

50

ASEM Partners represented



# 23<sup>rd</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS23)

## Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence



**Copenhagen, Denmark**  
29–31 October 2025

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS23) was held from 29–31 October 2025 in Copenhagen, Denmark and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The Seminar brought together over 100 key stakeholders from Asia and Europe, including government officials, civil society, academics and national human rights institutions, to examine the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights.

Over the course of the Seminar, participants examined how AI technologies, while offering significant opportunities for innovation, also pose risks to fundamental rights such as privacy, equality and access to justice. Through three working groups focused on Privacy and Data Protection, Equality and Non-Discrimination and Remedies and Access to Justice, participants

explored the ethical, legal and technical challenges of AI and underscored the need for clear accountability and effective remedies.

The Seminar concluded that stakeholders across Asia and Europe should collaborate to promote human-rights-based AI governance by strengthening institutions, exchanging best practices and fostering transparency, accountability and public empowerment. Independent oversight and alignment with international human rights standards were highlighted as essential to ensuring that AI serves society fairly and responsibly.

ASEMHRS23 will be followed by a capacity-building programme in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in March 2026, designed to deepen participants’ understanding of human rights–based AI governance and to translate seminar discussions into practical action.



Co-organised by



Hosted by



In partnership with



Funded by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEP's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026

# Capacity-Building Programme on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

**Riga, Latvia**  
19–21 May 2025



“ The programme combined in-depth knowledge with genuine connections, making it an enriching and inspiring experience. ”

ASEF WPS participant

ASEF held the Capacity-Building Programme on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) from 19–21 May 2025 in Riga, Latvia, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and organised in partnership with Security for Women (Latvia). The programme convened 20 junior and mid-career diplomats and 27 speakers and trainers from ASEM member countries, representing government, academia, civil society and national human rights institutions.

In the course of the three-day programme, participants examined key WPS issues, including gender equality, gender-based violence in conflict-affected contexts and the role of diplomacy in advancing women’s participation in peace and security. Discussions highlighted international frameworks such as *UN Security Council Resolution 1325*, which marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, as well as the value of cross-sector collaboration and the need for behavioural change in diplomatic practice.

The programme concluded with a call for ethical leadership, inclusive diplomacy, and sustained international cooperation to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Funded by



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland



MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Supported by



General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026



# 13<sup>th</sup> ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (ASEFPDT13)

**Online Training:**  
15 September –  
23 October 2025

**Face-to-face Training:**  
1–5 December 2025,  
Singapore



The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the ASEF Public Diplomacy Training (ASEFPDT13) concluded its final edition of online and face-to-face components. The programme brought together 27 junior diplomats from ASEF partner countries.

Participants first completed a multi-week online training designed and delivered by DiploFoundation, focusing on contemporary public diplomacy funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Participants then progressed to the face-to-face component, hosted in collaboration with the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The training opened with an interactive session and panel discussion featuring Ambassadors and academics from Asia and Europe, reflecting on trust, influence and cooperation in public diplomacy. ASEFPDT13 placed particular emphasis on public diplomacy in an evolving geopolitical context, with sessions on artificial intelligence, e-diplomacy, branding and strategic communications. The programme was further enriched by institutional visits, case studies, cultural activities and a fireside chat with Ambassador-at-Large Tommy Koh, offering participants valuable practitioner insights.

Funded by



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

Hosted by



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SINGAPORE

General Funders



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026



# ASEF Public Health Network

## Multi-country workshop: Mainstreaming Antimicrobial Resistance Interventions into Primary Healthcare

**Bangkok, Thailand**  
18–20 March 2025



Funded by



From  
the People of Japan

From 18 to 20 March 2025 in Bangkok, ASEF, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Thailand, organised a multilateral workshop on integrating antimicrobial resistance interventions into primary healthcare. The workshop convened national AMR and PHC focal points from ASEM countries to strengthen people-centred health system approaches, promote cross-sectoral collaboration and support the mainstreaming of AMR responses into routine primary care delivery.



## Climate Change and Public Health – the Environment’s Impact on Infectious Diseases

**Singapore,**  
12 November 2025



Held on 12 November 2025 in Singapore, ASEF, in collaboration with the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH), National University of Singapore (NUS), convened an expert dialogue on climate-driven infectious disease risks. The meeting brought together leading voices from Asia and Europe, including representatives from the IPCC, European Environment Agency, Singapore’s National Environment Agency and WHO Western Pacific Region Office, to exchange regional strategies and highlight the importance of cross-continental cooperation in strengthening climate-adaptive health systems.

In partnership with



Saw Swee Hock  
School of Public Health

Funded by



From  
the People of Japan

## High-level Meeting on Risk Communication for Public Health Emergencies (PHEs): Leaving no one behind

**Berlin, Germany,**  
2–3 December 2025



Held on 2–3 December 2025 in Berlin, the high-level meeting co-organised by ASEF and the Robert Koch Institute convened public health and communication experts from Asia and Europe to strengthen inclusive Risk Communication and Community Engagement. The meeting focused on building trust, enhancing multilingual preparedness and improving outreach to migrants, minorities and underserved communities, reinforcing the importance of inclusive approaches in public health emergency preparedness and response.

In partnership with

ROBERT KOCH INSTITUT



Funded by



From  
the People of Japan



# Stockpile

The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2009 authorised the project initiated by Japan and co-sponsored by Hungary, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam aimed at strengthening ASEM Partners' capacity to manage public health emergencies. ASEF was requested by the Ministers to act as the implementer of this project. The project consists of two components and these activities are financially supported by the Government of Japan through its Second and Third Trust Funds (JTF2 and JTF3). The JTF2 Stockpile Project aims to enhance ASEM Partners' capacity for pandemic preparedness and response to the emergencies such as the outbreak of pandemic influenza by stockpiling antiviral drugs and personal protective equipment (PPE) for rapid delivery when needs arise, partnering with the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO/WPRO) and Japan International Cooperation System (JICS). The JTF3 Stockpile Project aims to strengthen preparedness and response capacities to the COVID-19 and the other emerging infectious diseases in and around ASEM countries by stockpiling and distributing critical resources, partnering with WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/ Europe) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).



**From  
the People of Japan**

*The Stockpile project  
is funded by the  
Government of Japan*

## Assistance for the WHO Emergency Response for COVID-19, Vaccine-Preventable and Infectious Diseases in Ukraine and Refugee Hosting Countries

**Kiev, Ukraine**

10 December 2025



In March 2025, ASEF renewed commitment with a USD 10 million contribution from the Government of Japan. This third phase of Japan's contribution, through ASEF's Stockpile project, provides the WHO with additional assistance in delivering critical healthcare services to meet the urgent health needs of refugees and internally displaced people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and non-ASEM member, Moldova.

As a part of the project, PCR kits and other diagnostic reagents for the detection and differentiation was officially handed over to laboratories on 10 December 2025. ASEF's Executive Director, Ambassador STOCZYŃSKA joined online for the Stockpile handover ceremony in Kiev and reaffirmed ASEF's commitment to support the resilience and recovery of Ukraine's health system. The contribution from ASEF significantly reinforced the essential medical supplies and enhanced overall technical health capacity in Bulgaria.

## Collaboration with the IFRC to Strengthen Preparedness and Response to Covid-19 and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases in Asian Countries

**Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia**

11 April 2025



ASEF has collaborated with IFRC for a two-year project worth USD 10 million aimed at strengthening preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in Asia. Medical devices, cold-chain equipment for vaccines, personal protective equipment and others has provided to the five ASEM partners, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

As a part of the project, on 11 April 2025, ASEF handed over three ventilators to the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) Hospital in Southeast Sulawesi. ASEF's Executive Director, Ambassador STOCZYŃSKA joined the handover ceremonies and reiterated the importance of the project. The ceremony demonstrated the strong collaboration between the Government of Japan, ASEF, IFRC and PMI to strengthen services for communities in Southeast Sulawesi.

## Meeting with WHO Western Pacific and on-site visit to the Emergency Operation Room

**Manila, Philippines**

3 November 2025



ASEF Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei reaffirmed the importance of our collaborative Stockpile project with the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Saia Ma'u PIUKALA.

Generously supported by the Government of Japan, the project has significantly strengthened health security systems in the region, not only for influenza pandemics but also for other public health emergencies, thereby enhancing preparedness for future health threats. ASEF appreciated WHO Western Pacific and all implementing partners for the continued progress of the project and looks forward to further joint efforts to strengthen capacities for pandemic preparedness and emergency response.

# ASEF in the Media

## Tatler Magazine

March 2025



ASEF Executive Director Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA's interview is published in the March issue of the Tatler Magazine. In the article entitled *Close Ties*, she discussed how the organisation continues to foster cooperation between Asia and Europe, the importance of cultural and intellectual exchange and her vision for strengthening ties between both regions.



## RTV Slovenia

8 October 2025



ASEF Deputy Executive Director Mr ZHANG Lei stressed the important role that teachers and educators played in harnessing AI for education in his interview with #RTVSlovenija, during #ASEFClassNet18 event at Maribor, Slovenia, 8 October 2025.



## ASTRO Awani

26–27 August 2025



ASEF Executive Director Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA was interviewed by Astro Awani on the margins of the Roundtable on Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation in Kuala Lumpur on 26–27 August 2025. She highlighted the importance of closer Asia–Europe cooperation and ASEF's work in supporting exchange, education, climate cooperation, digital and green transformation.



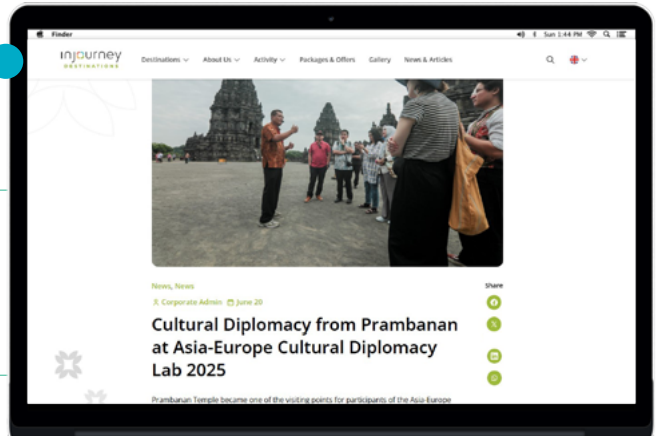


### ASEF LinkUp 2025 Showcases Asia–Europe Cultural Diplomacy in Yogyakarta 25 June 2025

The third edition of ASEF LinkUp | Asia–Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab was featured in several media publications, highlighting its role in strengthening Asia–Europe cultural relations from 18–21 June 2025, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Co-organised by the Asia–Europe Foundation and the Indonesian government, the Lab convened 16 experts to move cultural diplomacy beyond traditional state-led frameworks. Inspired by the Indonesian ethos of gotong royong (mutual cooperation), participants engaged in workshops and site visits to foster inclusive, “bottom-up” partnerships.



### Cultural Diplomacy from Prambanan at the Asia–Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab 2025 - PT Taman Wisata Candi 20 June 2025



### Young People from Asia and Europe Take Part in Cultural Diplomacy in Yogyakarta 23 June 2025



# ASEF on the International Stage

## JIGE International Forum

23–24 January 2025, Osaka, Japan

ASEF was invited to the JIGE International Forum under the theme “Onward: Pioneering Japan’s Hub for Global Education Innovation in the era of Education 5.0” to present our work in youth education, particularly the ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS). The presentation highlighted ASEFYLS as a blended mobility programme that explores holistic leadership aligned with Japan’s Society 5.0 vision of integrating cyberspace and physical space to solve social issues.



## Navigating the Intersection of Cooperation and Competition Science Diplomacy in Romania and Hungary

11 March 2025, Online



ASEF was invited to present the preliminary findings of the Asia–Europe Science and Technology Diplomacy Report at this one-day hybrid regional conference, contributing with the Asia–Europe cooperation perspective. The presentation was delivered by Ms Linnea REGNELL (ASEFEdu). The conference brought together 35+ Science and Technology Diplomacy stakeholders, such as students and higher education professionals from Hungary and Romania and speakers from both Asia and Europe.



## Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting (BIPAM)

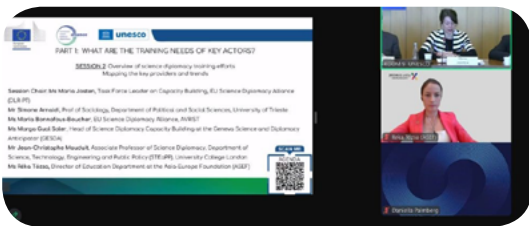
12–15 March 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

Established in 2016, BIPAM has since become internationally recognised as the only performing arts platform in South-East Asia. Ms Giulia POLI was invited to participate as a speaker, where she presented the Asia Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) project to performing arts professionals in attendance. The event provided several networking opportunities and partnership development for the festival.



## EUSDA Science Diplomacy Training Workshop at the sideline of the Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy 27 March 2025, Online

ASEF was invited to contribute to a high-level workshop on science diplomacy, organised by the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance and UNESCO at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, held alongside the Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy. The event gathered diplomats, policymakers, trainers and researchers to review current science diplomacy training, identify best practices and gaps and develop recommendations for how to conduct capacity-building and training tailored to different target audiences. ASEF Education Director Réka TÓZSA spoke in a session on global training efforts, mapping key providers, popular topics and regional trends in Asia and Europe, drawing on findings from the Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report.



## The Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM)

3-6 April 2025, Ancona, Italy



ASEF participated in the Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM) 2025, Europe’s largest student-led conference on higher education mobility, held under the theme “Empowering Youth as the Changemakers of Society”, gathering over 1,000 participants. Ms Freya CHOW-PAUL (ASEFEdu) facilitated two workshops: “Beyond Borders: Strengthening EU-Asia Collaborations,” and “Cracking the Code: Mastering Intercultural Communication in Student Mobility,” offering practical tools through case studies and exercises to turn cultural differences into opportunities. The sessions drew over 85 participants and strengthened ties with the Erasmus Student Network while promoting initiatives like the ASEF Young Leaders Summit.



## World Student Pitch (WSP) Climate Tech Innovation Challenge 2025

19 April 2025, Singapore



ASEF hosted the Grand Finale of the World Student Pitch Singapore 2025 Climate Tech Innovation Challenge on 19 April 2025, providing a platform for student teams from Singapore and the region to pitch market-ready climate tech solutions to an esteemed expert jury. Co-organised with YUME PRO Japan and supported by the National Youth Council Singapore, World Student Pitch showcased strong collaboration between Japan-Singapore young leaders, including ASEF alumni. Top teams, led by first-place winner Carbonsynk, received cash prizes and international exposure, including a pitch opportunity at IVS 2025 in Japan.

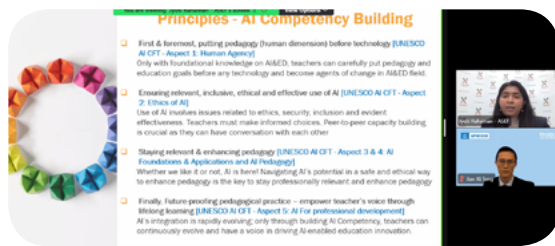


## UNESCO's Regional Seminar on AI Competencies for Teachers and Students (Asia-Pacific)

28–29 April 2025, Online



ASEF was invited to present its ASEFClassNet Project's methodology at the *UNESCO's Regional Seminar on AI Competencies for Teachers and Students (28–29 April 2025)* as a best-practice model for teacher professional learning and AI competency-building. Ms Jyoti RAHAMAN (ASEFedu) delivered the presentation *From Principles to Practice: The AI Competency Building Journey of ASEFClassNet Teachers*, highlighting how ASEFClassNet's peer-driven, human-centred approach translates global AI frameworks into ethical, inclusive and classroom-based teaching practice.



## Cultural Mobility Forum

29–30 April 2025, Riga, Latvia

On the Move Cultural Mobility Forum is an annual event organised by On the Move, the European network for cultural mobility based in Brussels, Belgium. In 2025, the forum focused on the international mobility of young and emerging arts workers, assembling a global range of experts and institutions working in the field of cultural mobility. Ms Kerrine GOH represented ASEF at the Forum and shared ASEF's work in the area of cultural mobility. A series of articles about the forum were published on [culture360.asef.org](https://culture360.asef.org) as part of *Arts Journalism Matters: On the Ground*.



## Europe Day 2025

8 May 2025, Singapore

As part of the celebrations for Europe Day organised by the European Union delegation in Singapore, ASEF Culture supported a musical performance by Polish double bass Jacek Mirucki and Singapore pianist Sim Yi Kai, performing the Sonata in G Minor by Henry Eccles.



## Open Day 2025

10 May 2025, Brussels, Belgium

ASEF participated in the EU Open Day at the European External Action Service (EEAS) office in Brussels, Belgium. It was an opportunity to share more about the Foundation's activities and projects, as well as our continued efforts to bring Asia and Europe closer together.



## SPRING Performing Arts Festival

22–26 May 2025, Utrecht, Netherlands



The SPRING Festival is one of the most prestigious European performance events, focusing on contemporary theatre and dance. Ms Giulia POLI was invited as an international programmer among the festival’s international delegation, showcasing the increasing recognition of AECFest. During the visit, she engaged with SPRING to further strengthen collaboration in preparation for the 2026 edition of AECFest.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Higher Education

26–28 May 2025, Brussels, Belgium



ASEF was invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Higher Education: The Sustainable Connectivity Showcase which gathered policymakers, academics, as well as representatives from international organisations and industries to foster collaboration on higher education between the EU and ASEAN. ASEF joined and contributed to a series of intensive workshops on strategic pathways for sustainable connectivity in higher education, TVET and research. Based on comprehensive discussions on international collaboration, skills for workforce mobility, and youth participation in education policymaking, the dialogue produced its Brussels Policy Brief: The Sustainable Connectivity Showcase.



## 10<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Arts and Culture

28–30 May 2025, Seoul, Korea



The 10<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Arts and Culture is a biennial conference, organised by The International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA), and gathering global voices from governments and independent arts sector. At the Summit, Ms Valentina RICCARDI and Ms Kerrine GOH shared insights on the ASEF LinkUp | Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab programme during one of the dedicated panel discussions. A series of interviews with key speakers were published on culture360.ASEF.org, as part of *Arts Journalism Matters: On the Ground*.



## European Youth Parliament (EYE)

13–14 June 2025, Strasbourg, France



ASEF contributed to the European Youth Event (EYE) 2025 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. The EYE brings together thousands of young people from across Europe and beyond to discuss, debate and shape the future of the continent and its global partnerships. In partnership with the European Parliament in ASEAN team and colleagues from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung’s Political Dialogue Asia and Multinational Development Policy Dialogue programmes, ASEF brought a delegation of 21 Young Parliamentarians and Youth Leaders from Asia to participate in multilateral dialogues and panels, strengthening Europe’s relations with the South East Asia and the Indo-Pacific.



## Towards Formulating an 'ASEAN' Roadmap in Science Diplomacy

19 June 2025, Jakarta, Indonesia

ASEF was invited to participate in the Dialogue Partners Session entitled "Towards Formulating an 'ASEAN' Roadmap in Science Diplomacy". The event was organised in conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on STI (AMMSTI-21) and the 87<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Committee on STI Meeting (COSTI-87). ASEF's Education Director Réka TÓZSA spoke on a panel with representatives from UNESCO, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, sharing insights from the Asia–Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report.



## World Youth Development Forum (WYDF)

14–17 July 2025, Beijing, China

Mr ZHANG Lei, Deputy Executive Director, represented ASEF at the World Youth Development Forum 2025, engaging in high-level discussions on strengthening international cooperation for youth empowerment and the 2030 Agenda. As a speaker at the Thematic Forum on "Artificial Intelligence and Science & Technology Innovation", he showcased ASEF's initiatives in AI and digital cooperation and encouraged young participants to harness curiosity, creativity, and cross-border collaboration to drive ethical, inclusive and sustainable technological progress.



## Manila International Performing Arts Market Talks: Expanding Horizons for Performing Arts

16 July 2025, Online

Organised by the Arts Education Department of the Cultural Centre of the Philippines, the *Manila International Performing Arts Market Talks: "Expanding Horizons for Performing Arts"* shared opportunities and public programming avenues that enable performing arts groups in the country to engage in the international arts market. Notable international producers, festival organisers, venue operators, including ASEF's Culture Director Ms Valentina RICCARDI shared insights about their organisation's programmes, methodologies and avenues for international collaborations.

Cultural Center of the Philippines

**MIPAM TALKS:**  
Manila International Performing Arts Market

Expanding Horizons for Performing Arts

JULY 16, 2025 2PM (Manila Time) via Zoom

<b>MERVYN QUEK</b> Senior Producer Singapore International Festival of Arts	<b>VALENTINA RICCARDI</b> Director of Culture Asia Europe Foundation	<b>MU CHIN</b> Senior Producer National Theater & Concert Hall	<b>GLORIFE JILL SAMODIO</b> Vice-Chair & Governor Federation for Asian Cultural Promotion



### ASEAN-EU Summer School

28 July – 2 August 2025, Online

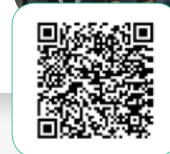
ASEF contributed to the 2025 ASEAN-EU Summer School, co-organised by the Student Think Tank on Europe-Asia Relations (STEAR) and the University of the Philippines Tacloban College. The six-day hybrid programme brought together youth leaders from ASEAN and Europe to explore disaster preparedness, climate resilience and transnational cooperation through expert lectures and hands-on group projects. At this event, Ms Jyoti RAHAMAN (ASEFEdu) delivered a lecture on “Technology & Climate Change: Educating for a Sustainable Future,” highlighting the role of collaborative, future-focused education in addressing global sustainability challenges.



### Global Smart Education Conference (GSE) 2025

18-20 August 2025 in Beijing, China

ASEF was invited to deliver a keynote at the Global Smart Education Conference (GSE) 2025 in Beijing, co-organised by the Beijing Normal University and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education. The keynote, “Leading with Human Agency – Empowering Teachers to Thrive in the AI Era,” was delivered by Ms Jyoti RAHAMAN (ASEFEdu) highlighting teacher agency, peer-driven professional development and human-centred, inclusive approaches to AI-supported teaching and learning across Asia and Europe. She also spoke on a closed-door Ministerial roundtable on “Women’s Leadership in the AI Era” on 19 August highlighting the importance of creating spaces for women to lead and shape AI and AI-in-Education initiatives, as well as the role of early STEM education and career exposure in strengthening women’s participation in AI-driven innovation and leadership.



## Roundtable on Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation

27 August 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ASEF Executive Director Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA participated at the Roundtable on Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation in Kuala Lumpur organised by the Boao Forum for Asia and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS).

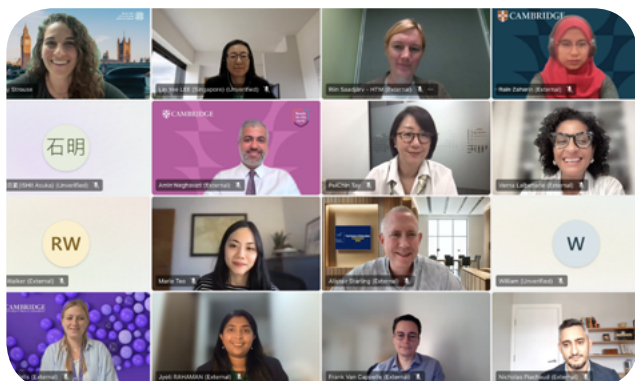


## “Governing in the Age of AI – Reimagining High-Quality Education” Roundtable

10 September 2025, Online



ASEF was invited to contribute to the “Governing in the Age of AI – Reimagining High-Quality Education” high-level virtual roundtable, co-organised by Cambridge University Press & Assessment and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. The roundtable brought together senior policymakers, leaders and education experts to discuss how artificial intelligence can support flexible, inclusive and future-ready education systems. ASEFedu contributed to this event by sharing insights from how the ASEFClassNet Project’s activities empower teachers, school leaders and teacher trainers to be better prepared for AI-driven education transformation in an inclusive and ethical way.



## Agora Civica Barcelona – UCLG Summit

27 September 2025, Barcelona, Spain

As part of the 6<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit programme, Director of Culture Ms Valentina RICCARDI spoke in a panel on the need to include culture in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Summit was the first event held as part of Agora Cívica, a programme organised in conjunction with UNESCO MONDIACULT 2025, to gather key actors in the field of cultural policy across the globe to collectively consider the role of culture in the construction of contemporary societies.



## Building Bridges: Meeting Point on Art and Social Action in Asia

16–18 October 2025, Vientiane, Lao PDR



ASEF Culture was invited to present at Meeting Point 2025, one of Southeast Asia’s most prominent gatherings on art and social action, organised by Mekong Cultural Hub. The department played a central role in the programme, including the closing of AECFest 2025 with “Over the Bridge”, a multidisciplinary programme of film, dance, and poetry, overseen by Ms Giulia POLI, that celebrated the resilience and voices of Lao women in the arts. Department Director Ms Valentina RICCARDI opened the plenary, “Building Bridges: Spotlight on Laos”, sharing ASEF Culture’s mapping report on Lao PDR’s creative ecosystem, while Ms Kerrine GOH lead a session on shaping public Policy.



## World Forum for Democracy

5–7 November 2025, Strasbourg, France

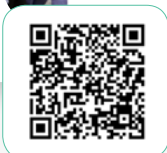
ASEF was invited to send representatives to the World Forum for Democracy 2025. Two youth delegates joined the forum, contributing with youth perspectives to global debates on the theme “Democracy at risk: how can we revive it?”. The delegates participated in preparatory activities at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg and then engaged in plenary sessions, labs, and side events, where they exchanged ideas on strengthening democratic participation, countering disinformation and promoting youth-led innovation in governance.



## ASEAN Youth Conference (AYC)

6 November 2025, Online & Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ASEF delivered a Keynote Speech at the ASEAN Youth Conference (AYC) 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, entitled “Intercultural Youth Leadership to Strengthen Regional Unity”. AYC was attended by 200 youth delegates from ASEAN and beyond. The keynote speech highlighted youth as peacebuilders and cultural ambassadors, the value of intercultural exchanges for empathy and regional cohesion and practical ideas for youth programmes that promote diversity and inclusion.



## AECEE General Assembly

14 November 2025, Online



On 14 November 2025, ASEF was invited to present at the AECEE (European Students’ Forum) General Assembly 2025. ASEF presented to thousands of young people on the importance of intercultural communication, empathy and collaboration in navigating the societal challenges we face. Building upon our presentation at the 2024 General Assembly on the ASEF Youth Report, this presentation emphasised how youth organisations can embed intercultural learning into training, leadership pathways and everyday organisational practice.



## 8<sup>th</sup> OE4BW 2025 EDUSCOPE Conference

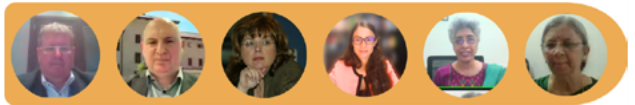
18–19 November 2025, Online



The ASEF Education Department’s Director Ms Reka TOZSA was invited to deliver the official opening remarks at the 8<sup>th</sup> Open Education for a Better World (OE4BW)’s annual EDUSCOPE Conference. In her address, she set a forward-looking tone for the conference by highlighting the importance of education innovation, cross-border cooperation and future-ready learning. She emphasised the role of digital transformation and sustainability in shaping more inclusive, resilient and human-centred education systems worldwide.



### OPENING REMARKS



- Mitja Jermol**  
Unesco Chair on Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Learning
- Dr Imre Cikajlo**  
Dean of School for Engineering and Management, University of Nova Gorica
- Ambassador **Veronika Stablj**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Reka Tozsa**  
Director of Education Department at the Asia Europe Foundation
- Dr Vasudha Kamat**  
Chairperson, Governing Board, at Consortium of Educational Communication
- Dr Jayashree Shinde**  
Dean, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Director, IMTTC/UGC, at SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai

# ASEF at ASEM Events

## ASEF Education 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEMME10 SOM1)

18–19 November 2025,  
Bucharest, Romania



The ASEM Education Secretariat and the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research co-organised SOM1 with the theme “Connecting Education, Fostering Collaboration between Asia and Europe”. This event gathered over 70 senior officials from partner countries and key stakeholder organisations from the two regions to strengthen interregional dialogue and cooperation, as well as reinforce preparatory momentum for the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME10) in 2026.

As a key stakeholder organisation, ASEF shared achievements and plans for the upcoming year under two important agenda items. Lead for Higher Education Projects Ms Cleo CACHAPERO co-presented the latest achievements of the ASEM Expert Group on SDGs and Education. She also shared a snapshot of the ASEF Education Department's project milestones and partnerships in 2025 and its full lineup of projects for the coming year.



## ASEM Education Expert Group on SDGs and Education (EG1) Meetings

Throughout 2025,  
Online & in Bucharest, Romania



In 2025, the ASEM Education Expert Group on SDGs and Education took a fresh direction under a new workplan, which ASEF helped to draft as one of its Co-Chairs. The EG1 held four thematic meetings, each gathering 20+ representatives of ASEM member countries and stakeholders in higher education policymaking:

1. “Setting the Scene: Where Are We, and What Lies Beyond 2030?”, 26 March, online
2. “Rethinking Educational Equity: From Access to Real Inclusion”, 22 May, online
3. “Learning Cities of the Future: Building Inclusive and Equitable Learning Ecosystems” jointly with the Expert Group on LLL and TVET, 10 September, online

“Reimagining Education and Sustainable Development Post-2030”, 20 November, hybrid as part of the ARC10 Policy Dialogue in Bucharest, Romania

The EG1 will follow up on this groundwork in 2026 to cover a comprehensive set of topics in preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Ministerial Meeting (ASEMME10).



## ASEM Expert Group on Digitalisation and AI Meeting in Košice

4 December 2025,  
Košice, Slovakia



As a key partner of the ASEM Education Process, ASEF partnered with the ASEM Education Secretariat and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to organise a hybrid meeting of the Expert Group on Digitalisation and AI at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University. The meeting was conducted in conjunction with the ASEFInnoLab6 Conference in Košice and ASEF was represented by Education Director, Ms Réka TÓZSA. The seven onsite members of the Expert Group then joined the ASEFInnoLab6 participants to discuss skill needs for an AI-powered world in an insightful roundtable and help the cohort with academic papers.



# Publications

## ASEF Corporate video

In 2025, we initiated the production of ASEF's new corporate video as a refreshed media tool to strengthen understanding of ASEF's mission and work, supporting outreach and visibility across key stakeholder audiences.



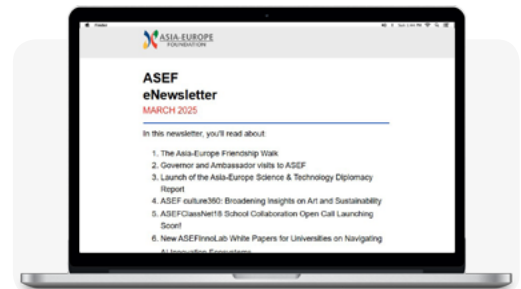
## ASEF Year-end Review Video 2025

We produced ASEF's Year-end Review Video 2025, summarising key projects and activities delivered during the course of the year into a four-minute video. It gives audiences a quick overview of what ASEF delivered in 2025 and is useful for online promotion, as well as a reminder for stakeholders.



## ASEF e-Newsletter

We published 12 editions of its e-newsletter, featuring a monthly roundup of ASEF news, activities, project updates, announcement of upcoming events and open calls. Released on the first Monday of each month, the e-newsletter was distributed to more than 35,000 registered subscribers.



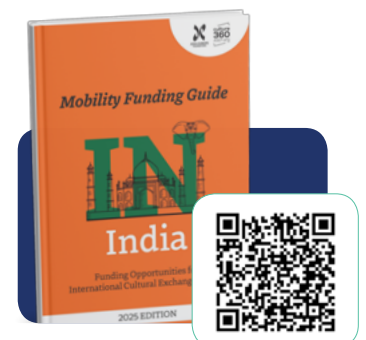
## ASEF Annual Report 2024

The ASEF Annual Report 2024 was successfully published in April, highlighting ASEF's activities and results during the course of the year and serving as a key corporate communications product for stakeholders.

## Mobility Funding Guide for India (2025 Edition)

12 March 2025

The 2025 edition of the Mobility Funding Guide for India offers a comprehensive list of organisations that are funding mobility for artists to and from India, including national, regional and international sources of funding, whether public or private. First published in 2012 in partnership with On the Move, the Mobility Funding Guide was complemented by a podcast series with representatives of key Indian organisations delving further into the trends shaping funding for cultural mobility in the country.



## Mobility Funding Guide for Australia (2025 Edition)

13 August 2025

Featuring a curated list of 104 funding opportunities for cultural exchange to and from Australia, this latest edition of the Mobility Funding Guide for Australia provides a broad list of government grants, initiatives by private foundations and international programmes for arts and cultural professionals. The guide also explores sector-specific opportunities and private foundations.



## Creative Responses to Sustainability: India Green Guide

29 August 2025

Created in collaboration with Contact Base, an India-based organisation working across culture and development, the “India Green Guide” explores the evolving intersection of art and environmental stewardship in India, mapping key trends, opportunities and challenges in the field. The guide features a directory of 17 arts organisations in the country, working at the intersection of arts, ecology and sustainability. From vernacular crafts to textiles, land art, performance art and storytelling – the directory shares first-person experiences and insights from those who are actively engaged in arts-based climate action. The “India Green Guide” is the 9<sup>th</sup> in the on-going series *Creative Responses to Sustainability*, highlighting the most pioneering arts organisations responding to issues of sustainability and climate change through their artistic practices in Asia and Europe.

## ASEF LinkUp Fieldbook | Yogyakarta Iteration

25 September 2025

Co-created by the 16 participants of ASEF LinkUp | Asia–Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab 2025, the “ASEF LinkUp Fieldbook Yogyakarta Iteration” exemplifies the principle of collective responsibility in cultural diplomacy, through principles, case studies and practical mini tools to be implemented in international cultural projects. The Fieldbook is conceived as a way to consolidate key insights and knowledge from this year’s ASEF LinkUp discussions, that can be built upon in the next iterations.



## Rooted in Practice: A Mapping of Lao PDR's Creative Ecosystem

16 October 2025

The latest edition of ASEF culture360 mapping report provides a broad snapshot of the current state of the arts and cultural sector in Lao PDR. Commissioned to XYZ Art Centre, “Rooted in Practice: A Mapping of Lao PDR’s Creative Ecosystem” offers an entry point for local and international audiences to understand the emerging trends, key complexities of local, regional and international collaborations and areas of opportunity for improvement and change of the sector.

## Creative Responses to Sustainability: Philippines Green Guide

11 November 2025

Researched by the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), the “Green Guide for the Philippines” aims to provide a contextual overview of the local artistic landscape and environmental realities, informed by interviews and experiences of artists, cultural workers and sustainability advocates. The guide contains a directory of 18 organisations responding locally to sustainability-related themes and based across difference geographical context of the Philippines archipelago. The “Green Guide for the Philippines” is the 10<sup>th</sup> in the on-going series *Creative Responses to Sustainability*, highlighting the most pioneering arts organisations responding to issues of sustainability and climate change through their artistic practices in Asia and Europe.



# Social Media



## Facebook channels

- Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)
- ASEF culture360
- ASEFEdu

Engagements  
**111,844**

Reach  
**7,999,671**



## Instagram channels

- @asiaeuropefoundation
- @asiaeuropemt看
- @culture360\_asef
- @asef\_edu

Engagements  
**71,032**

Reach  
**1,312,507**



## LinkedIn channels

- Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)
- ASEFEdu

Engagements  
**37,923**

Reach  
**668,219**



## X channels

- @aseforg
- @asiaeuropemt看
- @asefedu
- @asef\_PHN

Engagements  
**3,910**

Reach  
**62,693**

# Digital Transformation



## Modernising our Digital Presence

### Modernising our Digital Presence

In 2025, the Digital Transformation (DX) department successfully executed a major migration of the Foundation's core digital assets to a high-performance infrastructure. Working closely with the Communications Department for the AEF and AIB websites and the Culture Department for the Asia–Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) website, DX managed the technical transition to a new data centre environment. By modernising our hosting architecture, we achieved high system availability and significantly enhanced the stability, security and speed of these vital engagement tools for our global audience.

### Streamlining Operational Efficiency

We implemented a new integrated spend management solution. This project focused on aligning global cloud-based software standards with optimised internal financial processes. Following successful testing, Phase 1 went live in late 2025, automating procurement workflows and expense tracking. This transition has enhanced organisational agility and financial transparency through a more streamlined, user-friendly interface for all staff.



## Streamlining Operational Efficiency

SAP Concur rollout



## Building Digital Trust

Through staff vigilance and simulations

### Building Digital Trust

To ensure the Foundation maintains the highest standards of organisational integrity, we established a comprehensive Data Protection and Information Security framework. These policies specifically align our internal processes with the Singapore Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) and international best practices. This framework is reinforced by our ongoing cybersecurity awareness programme. Through continuous phishing simulations and staff training, we have maintained a high level of vigilance and a proactive culture of incident reporting across the organisation.

# Human Resources



ASEF Staff Strength as on 31 Dec 2025	Male	Female	Total
SM	1	1	2
CE	0	4	4
COM	1	2	3
DX	1	1	2
EDU	1	6	7
EO	1	4	5
FIN	2	5	7
GSD	2	4	6
HR	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>

Nationality Breakdown	Asia	Europe
Bangladesh	1	
China	2	
Czech Republic		1
Finland		1
France		1
Germany		1
Hungary		1
Indonesia	1	
Italy		2
Japan	1	
Luxembourg		1
Mongolia	1	
Myanmar	1	
Philippines	3	
Poland		1
Singapore	16	
Slovenia		1
Sweden		1
United Kingdom		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>



# Human Resources

**Beata STOCZYŃSKA**  
Executive Director



## Senior Management



**ZHANG Lei**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Sharmila KRISHNASAMY**  
Chief of Staff/Head



**Sanja DUNDOVIC**  
Manager



## Executive Office



**Michael LASERNA**  
Manager

**YEO Shu Li**  
Executive Assistant



**Elise LONCOL**  
Senior Executive  
(from 1 December 2025)



**KOONG Pai Ching**  
Director



**Valentina RICCARDI**  
Director

## Communications



**Kristy WONG**  
Project Executive  
(from 30 September 2025)



**Donny SUPARMAN**  
Project Manager



**Kerrine GOH**  
Project Manager

## Culture



**Giulia POLI**  
Project Manager



**Adlina MOHD ANIS**  
Project Officer  
(from 9 June 2025)

Education

**Reka TOZSA**  
Director



**Jyoti RAHAMAN**  
Project Lead,  
Education Innovation



**Angie TOH**  
Senior  
Administrative/  
Project Manager



**Cleo CACHAPERO**  
Project Lead,  
Higher Education



**Freya CHOW-PAUL**  
Project Lead,  
Youth



**Linnea REGNELL**  
Project Executive



**Martin HAMMERBAUER**  
Senior Project Executive



**Carsten BERMIG**  
Director  
(from 1 December 2025)



**Armi AARNI**  
Head,  
Governance



**Makoto SHIMOARAI**  
Advisor



Governance  
and  
Sustainable  
Development

**Nur A'in Binte  
ABD RAZAK**  
Acting Head,  
Public Health  
Network



**Elizabeth C DY**  
Senior Admin  
Executive,  
Governance



**Jason TAN**  
Director



**Irene YAP**  
Manager



**Enkhjin BAYARKHUU**  
Head, Funds  
Management Unit



**May Thway KO**  
Senior Project  
Executive,  
Governance



Finance

**Eason CHONG**  
Senior  
Executive



**HUANG Haiqi**  
Senior Executive,  
Funds Management Unit



**Shaylie TOH**  
Executive



**Lolin PEK**  
Senior Executive



Digital  
Transformation

Human  
Resources



**Nicole CHUA**  
Head



**Jamie TOH**  
Executive

**Sarbjit KAUR**  
Coordinator



**David JOURDAN**  
Associate  
Director



Not included in photos:

Cynthia YEO (Singapore) Manager, HR (March 2025) ; Kris Anne Cortez GONZALES (Philippines) Senior Project Executive, CE (May 2025) ; Riko KIMOTO (Japan) Head, PHN (July 2025) ; Keli SHENG (Switzerland) Project Executive, PHN (Nov 2025).

# Financial Information

\*unaudited figures as at 31 Dec 2025

S/N	MEMBERS	2025 INFORMATION (SGD)			YTD 1997 to 2025 (SGD)			
		Total Contribution	General Contributions <sup>3</sup>	Earmarked Contribution (Incl Trust Fund) <sup>4</sup>	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION 1997-2025	TOTAL General Contribution <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL Earmarked Contribution (Incl Trust Fund) <sup>4</sup>	TOTAL RESERVE FUND
1	ASEAN Secretariat				0	0	0	0
2	Australia	104.413	104.413	0	907.361	907.361	0	0
3	Austria	37.263	37.263	0	2.510.844	2.510.844	0	0
4	Bangladesh <sup>2</sup>	19.347	19.347	0	223.929	223.929	0	0
5	Belgium	15.022	0	15.022	2.692.331	1.111.460	174.193	1.406.678
6	Brunei Darussalam	80.510	80.510	0	3.097.743	3.097.743	0	0
7	Bulgaria	32.237	32.237	0	637.998	637.998	0	0
8	Cambodia	12.833	12.833	0	251.458	251.458	0	0
9	China	1.301.512	312.363	989.149	18.018.954	9.867.013	8.151.942	0
10	Croatia	8.985	8.985	0	36.718	36.718	0	0
11	Cyprus	15.045	15.045	0	189.332	189.332	0	0
12	Czech Republic	60.331	60.331	0	1.116.882	1.116.882	0	0
13	Denmark	396.294	0	396.294	5.599.778	4.320.041	1.279.737	0
14	Estonia	15.018	15.018	0	320.416	320.416	0	0
15	European Union <sup>1</sup>	366.971	0	366.971	28.588.122	4.389.163	22.345.559	1.853.400
16	Finland	36.619	36.619	0	4.286.068	4.286.068	0	0
17	France	127.779	127.779	0	9.220.600	1.973.404	6.232.796	1.014.400
18	Germany	332.178	332.178	0	10.961.933	10.961.933	0	0
19	Greece	0	0	0	403.401	377.870	0	25.530
20	Hungary	37.436	37.436	0	1.192.753	1.192.753	0	0
21	India	152.663	152.663	0	2.943.891	2.943.891	0	0
22	Indonesia	77.441	77.441	0	2.249.450	2.249.450	0	0
23	Ireland	146.534	146.534	0	3.775.639	3.775.639	0	0
24	Italy	37.263	0	37.263	2.484.921	2.336.403	148.518	0
25	Japan <sup>1</sup>	613.380	185.587	427.793	86.771.134	6.147.201	80.623.933	0
26	Kazakhstan	0	0	0	268.360	268.360	0	0
27	Korea	229.462	229.462	0	8.527.191	6.839.253	345.900	1.342.038
28	Lao PDR	6.529	6.529	0	144.739	144.739	0	0
29	Latvia	33.565	33.565	0	665.690	665.690	0	0
30	Lithuania	37.041	37.041	0	502.278	502.278	0	0
31	Luxembourg	59.265	59.265	0	7.423.120	6.369.267	0	1.053.853
32	Malaysia	80.985	80.985	0	2.284.019	1.718.108	0	565.911
33	Malta	7.540	7.540	0	82.625	82.625	0	0
34	Mongolia	9.511	9.511	0	123.001	123.001	0	0
35	Myanmar	25.678	25.678	0	550.831	550.831	0	0
36	Netherlands	105.314	0	105.314	4.262.178	3.525.858	736.320	0
37	New Zealand	0	0	0	974.965	974.965	0	0
38	Norway	129.638	129.638	0	1.730.923	1.693.425	37.497	0
39	Pakistan	0	0	0	505.325	505.325	0	0
40	Philippines	94.704	81.660	13.044	2.015.651	1.935.206	80.446	0
41	Poland	72.601	72.601	0	1.550.601	1.544.686	5.915	0
42	Portugal	30.090	30.090	0	1.669.400	792.087	0	877.313
43	Romania <sup>2</sup>	30.090	30.090	0	572.993	572.993	0	0
44	Russian Federation	0	0	0	1.814.029	1.814.029	0	0
45	Singapore	259.285	259.285	0	10.278.263	6.848.963	0	3.429.300
46	Slovakia	0	0	0	171.145	171.145	0	0
47	Slovenia	14.816	14.816	0	429.542	429.542	0	0
48	Spain <sup>2</sup>	147.826	147.826	0	3.403.020	3.403.020	0	0
49	Sweden	85.571	85.571	0	4.089.312	4.089.312	0	0
50	Switzerland <sup>1</sup>	321.550	153.119	168.431	3.057.292	2.357.908	699.384	0
51	Thailand	100.865	100.865	0	3.264.675	1.866.561	0	1.398.114
52	United Kingdom	13.500	0	13.500	2.466.544	1.038.609	1.427.936	0
53	Viet Nam	38.512	38.512	0	1.011.354	1.011.354	0	0
	<b>TOTAL SGD</b>	<b>5.961.011</b>	<b>3.428.230</b>	<b>2.532.781</b>	<b>252.320.722</b>	<b>117.064.110</b>	<b>122.290.073</b>	<b>12.966.538</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes amount receivable for 2024, 2025

<sup>2</sup> Includes amount received for previous year contribution

<sup>3</sup> Previously known as Operating Fund

<sup>4</sup> Previously known as Total Project Fund (Incl Trust Fund)

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.

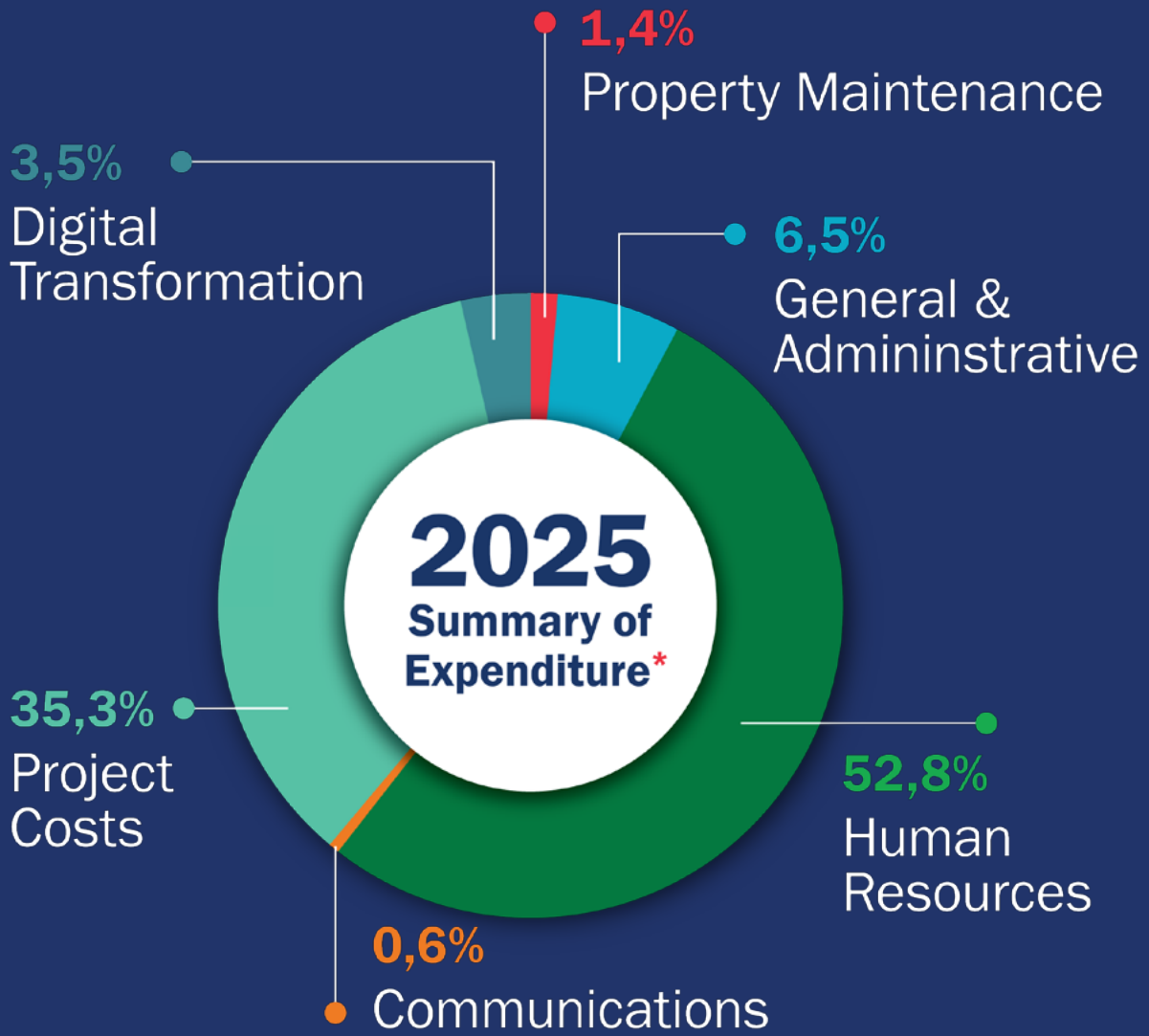
Audit scheduled for Q2 2026

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:

1. General Contributions received are utilised for the operating requirements of ASEF.
2. Earmarked 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.
3. Reserve Fund Contributions received are invested, with income generated being used to finance activities of ASEF if necessary.



\*unaudited figures as at 31. Dec 2025

**ASEF also deeply appreciates the in-kind contributions from:**

- China
- Denmark
- Germany
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Lao PDR
- Latvia
- Philippines
- Poland
- Romania
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Thailand



+65 6874 9700 [info@asef.org](mailto:info@asef.org) [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595