

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic

**EVENT DATE &
LOCATION**

Sunday, 23 August to Saturday,
29 August 2026
On-site: Tromsø, Norway

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SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://bit.ly/4e8tubz>

IMAGES

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The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) will be convening the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic,' an in-person programme under the ASEFYLS Capacity Training 2026, from 23–29 August 2026 in Tromsø, Norway. The Training is organised in partnership with and hosted by UiT The Arctic University of Norway and under the European Youth Capital 2026, 'True North – Tromsø 2026.'

The '[Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic](#)' will bring together **39 young leaders from across Asia and Europe** for people-to-people dialogue, cultural exchange and experiential learning. Building on the online Training Phase of the [ASEFYLS Capacity Training 2026](#), it provides participants with the opportunity to further explore '**Anticipatory Leadership**' through the Arctic as a **practical case study**, connecting future-oriented leadership concepts with real-world challenges.

As the world faces uncertainty and challenges that are increasingly interconnected, '*Anticipatory Leadership*' offers a future-oriented approach to inform present-day decisions. By analysing trends, exploring a range of future scenarios and challenging existing assumptions, *anticipatory leadership* encourages collaborative, adaptive and forward-looking actions towards more equitable and sustainable futures. Participants will examine how this approach can strengthen leadership, foster international cooperation and support resilient responses to complex global issues.

The Training aims to:

- Deepen participants' understanding of '*Anticipatory Leadership*' through expert-led learning.
- Strengthen participants' capacity to navigate complexity, uncertainty and long-term challenges to inform policy discussions and decision-making.
- Foster dialogue, collaboration and knowledge exchange among emerging leaders from Asia and Europe through cultural exchange activities, study visits and panel discussions.

The Training will feature sessions with Arctic experts from The University of Tromsø (UiT) - The Arctic University of Norway, alongside skill-building workshops facilitated by the [Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies \(CIFS\)](#) and the [Development Academy of the Philippines \(DAP\)](#). In addition, there will be opportunities for dialogue with local Tromsø city leaders and youth communities, and participants will be invited to join the local music festival Rakettnatt for a fun immersive cultural experience.

Following the Training, participants will continue their learning through the Action Phase of the ASEFYLS Capacity Training 2026 by organising multiplier activities in their local communities. These activities will enable participants to implement and share their learning, promote Asia-Europe exchange and extend the impact of the programme through wider knowledge dissemination.

ASEF welcomes the participation of those interested in learning more about 'Anticipatory Leadership' to join us at the programme's public events:

- *Opening Ceremony*: Monday, 24 August 2026, 09:00–10:30 CEST, at UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø.
- *Dialogue with Tromsø City Leaders*: Tuesday, 25 August 2026, 19:00–20:30 CEST, at Tvibit, Parkgata 27, 9008 Tromsø, Norway.

Please find the [Participants Booklet](#), introducing the 39 participants from 35 countries taking part in the Training. Participants will be available for interviews throughout the programme upon request.

The 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' forms part of ASEF's broader commitment to strengthening Asia-Europe cooperation, by equipping young leaders with the knowledge, skills and networks needed to address shared challenges. Through the ASEFYLS Capacity Training 2026, ASEF continues to promote dialogue, mutual learning and collaborative leadership, underscoring the importance of strengthened Asia-Europe cooperation and coordinated responses to build more resilient, equitable and sustainable futures.

About 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 has run more than 280 projects, mainly seminars, workshops and lectures, together with over 230 partner organisations. www.asef.org

About the Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM is an inter-governmental 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. It comprises 53 partners: 21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU. www.ASEMinfoboard.org