



ASEF PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF THE ASEM 6 SUMMIT (HELSINKI)

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ASEF activities being prepared in support of the ASEM6 Summit (at the 10th Anniversary of ASEM) in Helsinki in September 2006 are:

- “The Year of Asian Cultures” (Cultural Exchange)
- 4th Asia-Europe Art Camp: “Sound and New Media Art” (Cultural Exchange)
- Multimedia presentation “Borderless Me!” (Cultural Exchange)
- ASEM@10: Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe (Intellectual Exchange)
- 3rd Asia-Europe Editors’ Roundtable (Public Affairs)

Cultural Exchange

Project 1: “The Year of Asian Cultures” (conducted throughout 2006)

Description: ASEF is supporting the Finnish Ministry of Education to co-organise 9 selected cultural activities open to the public to support ASEM6 and to render visibility. These include exhibitions, visual and performing arts, and multimedia involving diverse Asian artists and groups.

- February 2006: Exhibition of Asian Shadow Puppets
- March-May 2006: Puppet Theatre for Children
- May 2006: Dances from the Shores of the Indian Ocean
- May 2006: Asian Film Festival
- June 2006: Exhibition on Continuity and Change of Southeast Asian Textiles
- August 2006: Chinese Kun Opera Reconstruction
- September 2006: Chamber Music Series: Traditional Chamber Music from Asia
- October 2006: Series of lectures and small exhibitions on Asian literature
- November 2006: Japanese contemporary dance performances at Festival of Contemporary Asian Dance

Partners: Ministry of Education, Finland; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland; Helsinki Film Festival; Riihimäki Art Museum; Tampere City Library and other Finnish libraries; Helsinki City Cultural Office; Vapriikki Museum; Tampere Theatre Festival; various Finnish theatres; Helsinki Festival, etc.

Contact Person: Wendy Lee (wendylee@asef.org).

Project 2: 4th Asia-Europe Art Camp: “Hearing Helsinki” (12-20 June 2006)

Description:

The yearly series of Asia-Europe Art Camp has been conceived since 2003 as a learning experience (artistic ideas and experiences from Asia and Europe) and also as an opening in terms of professional future (learn how to work with people from different cultures and backgrounds; how to develop and nurture artists’ networks in an international dimension, etc.)

The camp focuses on the creative process more than on the end “artistic product”, while trying to offer a platform for exchange of information, contextualisation of art practices and sharing of inspiration. Since 2004, ASEF has been placing an emphasis on new media art in the series of art camps.



Art Camp 2004 in Tokyo

and in Bandung, in 2005.....Before Helsinki

The Fourth Asia-Europe Art Camp “Hearing Helsinki” will focus on observing, analysing and documenting the shared sonic environment that surrounds us. What kind of meanings and emotions are conveyed through sound, and how do these sounds affect us?

The programme will provide a forum for sharing and discussing sonic experiences amongst a multi-disciplinary group of 20 students, guided by a team of artists and new media practitioners, coming from 19 ASEM member countries.

Two main outputs expected from this event are: 1) A sound presentation is expected to be held at the ASEM6 premises; 2) A call for new projects will be launched at the end of the Camp, only open to the alumni of art camp students (2003-2006).

Partners: University of Arts and Design (Media Lab), Ministry of Education, Finland

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Project 3: Multimedia presentation “Borderless Me!” (10-11 September 2006)

Description: Borderless Me aims to present ASEF’s active involvement in civil society dialogue through a series of multi-media installations at the **Helsingin Messukeskus** during the ASEM 6 Summit in Helsinki, Finland on 7-11 September 2006.

On 7 & 8 September it is also shown at an outdoor space near the City of Helsinki Cultural Office (**Yellow House**) from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The multimedia presentation will consist of an installation (photo + video + sound) that would reflect the rich diversity of ASEM cultures, and experiment with new technologies that could be used to enrich the Asia-Europe cultural collaboration. The interactive multimedia installation will present an exclusive preview of the ASEMUS Virtual Collection of Masterpieces (VCM). A series of 400 photographs representing the collection of participating institutions will be made available through a video presentation, accompanied by a “sonic environment” created in Finland, by the students of the 4th Asia-Europe Art Camp.

The process of creation will take place between March to September 2006 in both sides of Asia and Europe where varied ASEF projects are conducted. Series of interviews, photo shoot, filming, editing and creative multi-media installation/presentation will be undertaken to complete the project with ASEF’s partners and artistic collaborators: University of Art, Helsinki, ASEMUS VCM consortium and Walkscreen.

Berlin-based artists Ruthe Zuntz and Michael Reitz are the artistic collaborators for the visual installation and the sonic sound is the collective creation resulting from the Asia-Europe Art Camp 2006.

Partners: ASEM6 Secretariat (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); University of Art and Design, Helsinki (Media lab), City of Helsinki Cultural Office and *Walkscreen* (Berlin based multimedia artists); with sponsorship from *Apple*.

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Interview in Jakarta.

Postcard ASEMUS VCM

Intellectual Exchange

Projec: ASEM@10 - Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe (7-8 September 2006)

Description: Two-day conference with 60 representatives from NGOs, the business sector, the academe, media, labour unions, cultural policy experts, the youth and research institutes to review the state of Asia-Europe relations with a focus on Civil Society partnerships and business links. The conference will feature a presentation of the research report reviewing the first ten years of ASEM, commissioned by the Japanese and Finnish governments, as well as comments on the state and future of ASEM from the NGO, Business, Youth and Academic perspectives. Two workshops will discuss the topics of (1) Sustainable Development and Energy Security as well as (2) Information & Communication Technology and Cultural Diversity. The workshop themes are closely related to two key themes of the ASEM VI Summit: sustainable development and cultures and civilizations dialogue, respectively. The meeting seeks to generate civil society input in the form of recommendations to the ASEM process as well as concrete action plans for co-operation within civil society of Asia and Europe.

Partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland; International Institute for Asian Studies (the Netherlands); Japan Center for International Exchange; and the European Institute for Asian Studies (Belgium)

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Public Affairs

Project: 3rd Asia-Europe Editors' Roundtable (9 September 2006)

Chief editors and senior journalists from prominent Asian and European media will be brought together to discuss issues that will preoccupy the Leaders at ASEM6. They will also be encouraged to follow and report on ASEM6 and its related events.

Description: The roundtable will comprise about 30 chief editors and senior journalists from some of the prominent media of the two regions, with even representation across the bi-regional ASEM community. The one-day programme will cover the following areas of common concern for Asia and Europe in the global context:

- "Dialogue among cultures and civilisations - Need for socially responsible journalism?"
- "Shared responsibility in sustainable development and resource management - Promoting Asia-Europe partnership"

The participating journalists will be granted access to the main ASEM programme and to all official press briefings.

Partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

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The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), established in February 1997 by the participating Governments of ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting), is the only permanent physical institution of ASEM. It is a not-for-profit foundation based in Singapore, whose aim is to promote better mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. ASEF reports to a board of 39 governors representing the 38 ASEM countries and the European Commission.

ASEF carries out its mandate by initiating projects and fostering networks in the fields of art, youth, education, academic research, environment and media. ASEF flagship programmes include the ASEF Talks on the Hill, Asia-Europe Environment Forum, Informal Human Rights Seminars, Asia-Europe Youth Co-operation Network, ASEF University Series, Asia-Europe Young Artists' Exchange, ASEMUS (museums), SEA-Images (cinema) and Asia-Europe Editors' Roundtables and ASEF Journalists' Colloquia.

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