



PRESS RELEASE

World Summit on Arts & Culture
3-6 October 2011
Melbourne, Australia

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Asia-Europe Foundation supports global arts and culture conference

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is supporting the 5th World Summit on Arts & Culture, a global gathering of cultural leaders who will meet to discuss issues affecting public support for the arts and creativity.

The event is co-hosted by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and the Australia Council for the Arts. It will take place in Melbourne, Australia, from 3 to 6 October 2011. Over 400 participants comprising officials from culture ministries and national arts councils as well as artists and cultural professionals from 75 countries are expected to attend.

The Summit's theme 'Creative Intersections' is in line with ASEF's mandate to connect artists and cultural professionals across Asia and Europe as well as to connect the actions of governments and civil society.

ASEF will host an information booth on its arts and culture portal culture360.org. Participants will be encouraged to post their responses on the topic: "How are the arts a catalyst for change in today's society?" on an interactive wall designed by the Australian artist Hugh Davies. They will be encouraged to join the dialogue online at culture360.org.

ASEF will also participate in three roundtables. At the first, *Changing Places – Evolving Cultural Policies in Asia*, ASEF will present its Asia-Europe Compendium of Cultural Policies programme, which is part of the World Cultural Policies (WorldCP) project. This compendium will facilitate cultural policy dialogue between the two regions. At the second roundtable *A Climate for Change?*, ASEF will present the dossier of discussion papers from its programme Connect2Culture titled **Arts.Environment.Sustainability. How can Culture Make a Difference?** The programme engaged artists and cultural professionals on environmental issues. Lastly, ASEF will contribute to the discussions on the responsibilities of developed nations towards supporting the arts on a global level at the roundtable *Global Connectivity*.

ASEF is the only established institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) focused on connecting civil society from these two regions. As ASEF approaches its 15th anniversary in 2012, the Summit is also an opportunity for ASEF to showcase its work facilitating bi-regional engagement in the area of arts and culture.

More information: <http://www.asef.org/index.php/press/corporate/news-2322-world-summit-on-arts-and-culture>

Programme contact: Ms Kalaivani KARUNANETHY, Communications Officer, Cultural Exchange Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) | 31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595
Tel: +65 6874 9720 | Mobile: +65 9062 9543 | Fax: +65 6872 1207 | Email: kalaivani.karunanethy@asef.org

Media contact: Ms Kotryna STANKUTE, Project Officer, Public Affairs
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) | 31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595
Tel: +65 6874 9746 | Fax: +65 6872 1207 | Email: kotryna.stankute@asef.org

About the Organisation:



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 500 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org