



ASIA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF TRAINING

Asia-Europe Training for Young Volunteers “Learning the Unimaginable” - Volunteering as a Tool for Mutual Understanding 9 – 15 October 2008, Ha Long, Vietnam

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

The Asia-Europe Foundation aims to build on the training expertise of long-standing Asian and European youth organisations in order to allow for a beneficial exchange of practice and peer-to-peer training. The Asia-Europe series of trainings aim at the creation of an Asia-Europe platform for the joint development of the Asia-Europe co-operation in the field of youth trainings related to non-formal education, as well as to contribute to the efforts to establish an Asia Europe Pool of trainers. The establishment of a stable co-operation in the field of trainings and capacity-building for youth organisations forms a part of ASEF's efforts to foster intercultural dialogue.

This project reflects the commitment of youth organisations to increase the exchange and co-operation in the field of youth activities between Asia and Europe, especially in the field of youth volunteering. Previous experiences have shown that a main element of success of a volunteering project is the level of mutual understanding volunteers can reach, therefore, this training is regarded as an opportunity to take the concept of the Asia-Europe training courses one step further, focusing on volunteering and mutual understanding and working with intercultural learning as a transversal part of the training course, present there from the beginning to the end, rather than as a separate element of the programme.

INTRODUCTION

The Asia-Europe Training for Trainers is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Volunteers for Peace Vietnam (VPV) and will take place in Ha Long, Vietnam, from the 9th to the 15th October 2008. It is designed to emphasise the need for a dialogue of volunteers in Asia and Europe by contributing to the formation of a generation of multipliers able to work on issues related to mutual understanding.

The training will be composed of three main modules: **Concepts and Theoretical Approaches**, which will explore the different ways to deal with cultural diversity, putting a special emphasis on the diversity in Asia and in Europe; **Developing Skills**, challenging participants to understand different systems of values, cultures and points of view; and **Evaluation and Planning**, reflecting on how to use the new skills and evaluating the learning process.

WHAT IS ASEM?

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was initiated in 1996 when the ASEM leaders met in Bangkok, Thailand. ASEM is an informal trans-regional platform for dialogue and co-operation between the two regions and has arisen out of a mutual recognition that the relationship between Asia and Europe needed to be strengthened in light of the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

The objective of ASEM is to forge a stronger partnership between Asia and Europe that is based on equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit. The three pillars of the ASEM dialogue process – which extends beyond the political and official levels and encompasses the business and people sectors of the two regions – are political dialogue on regional and global issues, enhanced economic cooperation, and cooperation in the social, cultural, and educational fields.

WHO ARE THE ASEM PARTNERS?

The members of the ASEM Process are the following: 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, Netherlands,



Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The objectives that have been set-up are the following:

- To highlight the need for mutual understanding between Europe and Asia with specific reference to volunteer projects;
- To train participants, empowering them with new skills and an overall innovative approach to better understand and deal with cultural diversity in the framework of the Asia-Europe voluntary projects;
- To the co-operation between Asia and Europe in the field of Youth Policies and Voluntary Projects, by motivating participants to further participate in, and organise, similar activities;
- To conceptualise the new tools used in the training in order to set the basis for the creation of a kit (to be worked on as a possible follow-up project) that could be used in future trainings and activities involving volunteers both from Asia and Europe;
- To create a calendar for training projects and fill it up with concrete ideas and proposals;
- To propose the idea of a specific pool of trainers dealing professionally with the Asia-Europe youth activities.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

The training is expected to create concrete results such as:

- increased awareness on the need of a deeper Asia-Europe Youth dialogue with specific reference to Youth activities;
- creation of a generation of multipliers specifically oriented to projects involving Asian and European youth;
- connecting youth organisations interested in an Asia-Europe Youth dialogue and allowing them to develop joint activities of mutual benefits;
- prompted trainers, participants and organisers that work on the tools used during the training to set the basis for a training kit (given the amount of efforts that a high quality kit requires, it may be opportune to run it as a follow-up project; however, during the training it will be proposed to lay down a plan for the conceptualisation of such a training kit and participants will be encouraged to join the team working on this idea);
- highlighting the necessity for a roster of trainers working on the Asia-Europe dialogue; and committed participants and trainers that will work to create an Asia-Europe "pool of trainers".

The training will also have an impact on local level since it will involve partners from the local community. It will offer the local community the possibility to interact with an international group of young people, fostering the intercultural exchanges.

VENUE/DATES

The Asia-Europe Training for Young Volunteers - "Learning the Unimaginable" - Volunteering as a Tool for Mutual Understanding will be held from the 9th to the 15th of October 2008 in Ha Long, Vietnam.

Exact information on the venue of the training will be provided in due course.

PROGRAMME

Participants are expected to arrive at the venue of the training on Thursday, the 9th of October 2008 and depart on Wednesday, the 15th of October 2008.

The programme involves a combination of plenary and working group sessions using a variety of participative methods including practical activities outdoors and workshops held by participants themselves. A social/cultural programme is organised to enable the participants to learn more about the culture and history of Vietnam.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The official language of communication shall be English.



PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The project will involve 30 participants, motivated youth workers, volunteers, aged between 18 and 30, nationals from any of the ASEM countries¹, who would:

- Be already active in a youth organisation and willing to remain, as volunteers or staff, for at least one year;
- Have some experience in international projects – this will be an asset, as it would enable the sharing of experiences;
- Be willing to participate in organising similar activities (or manage international projects) in the future; it is important that participants are able to transfer this experience also to their organisations;
- Be able to work in English;
- Be willing to attend 100% of the training.

Participants will be selected on a gender equality basis and ensuring a geographical balance.

FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

There is no participation fee for the programme. The organisers of the training course will be responsible for covering all local costs, including accommodation, meals and local transportation. They will also be in charge of covering 50% of the international transport costs (up to 250 EUR for Asian participants and up to 500 EUR for European participants). All participants should have their own travel / health insurance; the organisers are not in the position to cover insurance costs.

APPLICATION

Interested parties should send the completed Participant Application Form attached, along with their updated detailed curriculum vitae or resume and a recent photo (jpg or bmp format) to the designated co-ordinators no later than the **25th of August 2008**. Applicants are kindly asked **NOT** to make any travel arrangements until they receive an official confirmation from the organisers.

Selected participants will be notified by the **31st of August 2008**.

Information on the training, including the application form, is also available on the ASEF website at <http://www.asef.org>. Regular updates shall also be posted online. Applications and general inquiries should be sent to the following contact:

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¹ The members of the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Process are the following: 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](#), [Netherlands](#), [Pakistan](#), [Philippines](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Singapore](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Thailand](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Vietnam](#), the [European Commission](#) and the ASEAN Secretariat.