

11th ASIA-EUROPE YOUNG LEADERS SYMPOSIUM FIRST ASIA-EUROPE YOUNG URBAN LEADERS DIALOGUE

Madrid, Spain
10 – 16 November 2008

BACKGROUND

The Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposia have been conceived to offer an open forum for closer and more regular contacts and dialogue among the next generation of leaders in both regions, on a wide range of issues that affect political, social and economic developments in the ASEM countries. The Symposia have got a triple objective: to strengthen cultural links and mutual understanding by providing participants a platform for informal dialogues on key issues in Asia-Europe relations; to create human networks among young leaders in the two regions; and to encourage participants to foster a common vision of Asia-Europe co-operation for the development of future ASEM initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

The 11th Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation and Madrid Global (International Strategy and Action Office of Madrid's City Council) under the title **First Asia-Europe Young Urban Leaders Dialogue** and will take place in Madrid, Spain, from the 10th to the 16th November 2008. This project aims at promoting better understanding between Asian and European societies by intensifying intellectual, cultural and social exchanges between the local, urban and metropolitan representatives of both regions.

The Dialogue will foster the creation of a space for transferring and exchanging knowledge, as well as analysing experiences that contribute to having urban experiences based on the commitment and participation of everyone involved and favouring a know-how transfer between the cities of all ASEM member countries through a permanent and continuous debate.

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.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

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

- To forge solid and long-lasting relationships through those exchanges and experiences, from the creation of personal and institutional ties and connections that involve new generations interest in sharing the social reality that surrounds our cities;
- To create networks of contacts among emerging young leaders, professionals from the main urban settlements on both continents.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

As a result of the project, a stable **Asia-Europe Network of Young Urban Leaders** will be established. This platform will enable participants and other interested partners to share ideas, develop new joint initiatives, as well as to strengthen the existing co-operation among Asian and European municipal governments and civil society actors.

A publication will be edited by the co-organisers; it will include the presentations, discussions and the Final Declaration of the Conference.

VENUE/DATES

The 11th Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation and Madrid Global (International Strategy and Action Office of Madrid's City Council) under the title **First Asia-Europe Young Urban Leaders Dialogue** and will take place in Madrid, Spain, from the 10th to the 16th November 2008.

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 Meeting on Monday, the 10th of November 2008 and depart on Sunday, the 16th of November 2008.

The **five (5) day programme** will include **plenary sessions** and **working groups**, with a specific programme devoted to study visits related to the topics discussed. The rich and diverse history of Madrid and its surrounding region offer a unique opportunity to complement the debates with a **cultural enrichment programme**.

An exhibition will also be arranged during the event; it will contain a display of materials and booths, providing useful information about the institutions, civil society actors that will be represented in the Symposia.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The official language of communication shall be English.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The project will involve relevant young, forward looking professionals, belonging to or whose field of expertise is based in capital or major cities and/or regions of ASEM member countries. They must:

- Be between 24 and 40 years old;
- Be ASEM nationals;
- Excel in the fields of public administration, the corporate world, the academic, artistic, political arena or media;
- Be decisive in their perspective areas of action;
- Have the capacity to share their experiences;
- Be able to work in English;
- Be willing to attend 100% of the meeting.

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

FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

There is no participation fee for the programme. The organisers of the Dialogue will be responsible for covering all local costs, including accommodation, meals and local transportation. They may also help partially defray the international travel costs of participants who need assistance by providing a travel subsidy. In this sense, the maximum amount reimbursed cannot exceed 50% of the total travel costs (up to EUR 250 for participants residing in Europe, while the maximum amount for residents in Asia is EUR 500). Participants residing in Spain are not eligible for any travel subsidy.

Participants are asked to have their own personal travel insurance during their stay in Spain.

APPLICATION

Interested parties should send the following three (3) documents: the completed Participant Application Form, the updated detailed curriculum vitae or resume and a recent photo (jpg or bmp format) to Mr Bogdan Imre at People-to-People Exchange Department, Asia-Europe Foundation through email bogdan.imre@asef.org or fax +65 6872 1207, no later than **Monday, the 15th September 2008**. Applicants are kindly asked **NOT** to make any travel arrangements until they receive an official confirmation from the organisers.

Information on the Dialogue, 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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