



**ASEM Youth Dialogue 2008  
Second Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue  
Bandung, West Java, Indonesia  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**FACT SHEET**

**INTRODUCTION**

**What is the ASEM Youth Dialogue?** The annual ASEM Youth Dialogue provides a valuable channel through which Youth in ASEM countries could exchange perspectives on priority themes in the ASEM agenda. Focus is given to the role and participatory nature of Youth in the ASEM process, particularly with regard to coming up with solutions to identified common challenges. This would be the Seventh instalment to the series launched in Denmark, with the Danish Youth Council, during the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in 2002.

**What is ASEM?** ASEM is an informal dialogue process among the Heads of Governments of 43 countries in Asia and Europe, as well as the Presidents of the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat, intended to forge a stronger partnership between Asia and Europe that is based on equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit. The three pillars of the ASEM 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 co-operation and co-operation in the social, cultural and educational fields.

**Why a Second Interfaith Dialogue?** The First edition of the Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue series, celebrated in Pamplona and Javier, Spain, in November 2006, gave the opportunity to young representatives of faiths and religious organisations to exchange views and experiences based on their respective religions and spiritual traditions and to brainstorm on new ways to strengthen youth interfaith co-operation under the ASEM framework. After a fruitful exchange of views, participants reached a consensus that is reflected on the 'Javier Declaration', which was approved with a standing ovation on the 22nd November 2006. The Declaration aimed to seek support for the further development of closer youth interfaith co-operation between Asia and Europe.

In this context, the Asia-Europe Foundation has decided to organise, in close co-operation with the Indonesian Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Religious Affairs, as well as the Central Board of Nahdlatul Ulama (PBNU), the *Second Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue*, as a way to continue promoting the already existing strong collaboration ties among the organisations present in the first event, as well as to reinforce such ties and extend them to other organisations both in Asia and in Europe. This way, ASEF tries to reach further in our aims to give the floor to Youth, as the ideal multipliers of the task initiated in Javier and Pamplona in 2006.

**What are the projected outcomes of this meeting?** The ASEM Youth Dialogues have been conceived to provide an opportunity for Youth in Asia and Europe to exchange perspectives on themes identified as priorities by the Asia-Europe Meeting during the biennial ASEM Summits.

They create and foster human networks among young people by encouraging a common vision. These dialogues also increase initiatives in the field of Asia-Europe youth co-operation through the development of action-oriented youth initiatives as concrete and substantial contributions by the youth to the ASEM process over the medium to long term.

At the end of the *Dialogue*, participants will be encouraged to materialise their agreements on the matters discussed, as well as the ideas raised from the sessions and side activities, on the **Message to ASEM Leaders**. This Message intends to channel the contribution of Youth in the field of interfaith and religious affairs to the ASEM Process.

As in previous projects of ASEF, a commemorative publication planned within the year of celebration of the *Dialogue*, and a specific section of the People-to-People Exchange Department in ASEF's official website will be devoted to reflecting the main contents and outcomes of the event, as well as to keep Participants in touch through on-line further discussions and open forums of discussion.

**Who are the ASEM Partners?** The members of the ASEM (The Asia-Europe Meeting) Process are, as follows, 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 ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission

## **VENUE/DATES**

The **Second Asia-Europe Youth Interfaith Dialogue** shall be held from the **23rd to the 27th June 2008 in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia**.

Further details on the hotel and Conference venues shall be provided at a later date.

## **PROGRAMME**

Participants are expected to arrive in Jakarta on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and should schedule their departure from Indonesia on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> June. The preliminary programme is attached as *Annex A*.

The programme involves a combination of a Panel Discussion and Working-Group sessions, as well as encounters with key institutions in the host country. Interaction among the Participants is emphasised and adequate time will be allocated for the enhancement of the involvement of the represented organisations in regional and inter-regional networks and collaboration projects.

Participants will be divided into **3 Working-Groups** to engage in more in-depth discussion on issues that would be identified as Youth priorities. Inputs from the Working-Groups shall contribute to a Final Report and will likely constitute the basis of the expected “*Message to ASEM Leaders*” that shall latter be submitted for the consideration of the ASEM Leaders.

**Working Group I: Religion in the Media / Arts**

**Working Group II: Religion and Peace**

**Working Group III: Religion and Education**

A Social/Cultural programme will also be organised as part of the official programme to enable the Participants to learn more about the religion, culture and history of the host country, as well as to encourage their mutual knowledge of other Participants and their beliefs and organisations. In this sense, field trips and educational visits to historical and cultural sites will be arranged.

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

English shall be the official language of the *Dialogue* and all its related activities.

## **CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION**

Up to 100 young religious representatives and experts in interfaith dialogue will be invited to participate in this five-day conference.

Participants should be between 21-40 years old, proficient in English, and working on people-to-people initiatives for Youth. They should be aware of national or international Youth issues in relation to interfaith dialogue, and have an active interest in promoting understanding and respect for the other region. The religiously diverse young participants should come under two profiles:

Profile 1: Youth representatives of Churches, Faiths and Religious Organisations or Networks  
Designated young active members of Churches, Faiths and religious organisations or networks from Asia and Europe.

Profile 2: Religiously independent young activists demonstrating an interest in Interfaith Dialogue

by doing local interfaith work in their community or by being active members of civic organisations in interfaith Youth work

## **FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES**

There is no participation fee for the programme. The organisers shall bear the costs for all activities related to the meeting, including the official cultural programme, accommodation, meals and local transportation.

All participants are, however, requested to pay for their travel costs **to Jakarta, Indonesia**. The organisers shall be offering a partial travel subsidy for Participants who need assistance with their international travel costs.

The maximum amount for such subsidy will be up to EUR 500 for those residing in Europe and EUR 250 for residents of Asia. Participants residing in Indonesia are not considered eligible for the travel subsidy.

## **APPLICATION**

Interested parties should send the duly completed Registration Form attached as *Annex B* along with their updated detailed curriculum vitae or resume to the designated Co-ordinators no later than **the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008**. Applicants are kindly asked not to confirm their travel arrangements until after receiving the official confirmation from the organisers.

Information on the conference, including the Application Form and related documents, are 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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