

## **WorldCP-Asia**

### **Fostering Cultural Policy Research and Dialogue in Asia**

*WorldCP-Asia* is a major new initiative to document the arts and cultural policies of countries in Asia. The initiative is a central component in the development of *WorldCP*, an international version of the highly regarded *Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe* ([www.culturepolicies.net](http://www.culturepolicies.net)).

In 2011, *WorldCP-Asia* is being coordinated by a partnership between the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), the lead partner of *WorldCP*, and the Asian Regional Secretariat for the initiative, comprising of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea (MCST) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU).

#### **Objectives**

The primary objectives of *WorldCP-Asia* are to:

- Facilitate research towards the development of cultural policy profiles of Asian countries; and,
- Stimulate policy dialogue, networking and mutual learning through people-to-people exchanges and online platforms

#### **Context**

Policy dialogue on culture has been increasingly acquiring strategic importance in Asia. In December 2010, the European Union and India signed a joint declaration to strengthen people-to-people contacts through policy dialogue on culture. In November 2009, MCST organised the *Culturelink Asia-Pacific Cultural Policy Conference* with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. MCST, which boasts of an Asian arts community comprising of five regions, five projects and 51 Asian countries, organises an annual *Cultural Resources Conference* for each region. In 2011, MCST hosted the *Korea-Central Asia Cultural Resources Conference* in Mongolia; the *Korea-Southern Asia Cultural Resources Conference* and the *Korea-ASEAN Cultural Resources Conference*, the latter two in South Korea. These developments mark the growing importance of culture in international relations, in particular since the adoption of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

*WorldCP-Asia* also builds on Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)<sup>1</sup> initiatives such as the mapping, *Cultural Heritage Preservation and Management Policies in the ASEM Countries*, undertaken in the context of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (Poland, 2010). It specifically carries forward the recommendation of the *ASEM Workshop on Enhancing ASEM Visibility through Cultural Activities* (Vietnam, 2010) to build up an 'open and transparent analysis of national cultural policies for the benefit of decision makers, the media and the cultural sector in the format of initiatives such as the Open Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends'.

The viability of developing *WorldCP-Asia* was investigated by the partners in 2010. The report on the research, *Towards Cultural Policy Profiles in Asia* (commissioned by the Hub City of Asian Culture and written by IFACCA) suggests that there is a solid basis for commissioning several profiles of countries in Asia over the next two years.

#### **Activities in 2011**

- Commissioning cultural policy profiles of countries in Asia in the pilot phase
- Dialogue with national governments of ASEM member countries on endorsing *WorldCP-Asia*
- Launch of the *WorldCP* project at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Arts and Culture (October 2011, Melbourne)
- Organising two *Experts' Meetings on Cultural Policy* with government and civil society stakeholders in Seoul, Republic of Korea and Melbourne, Australia
- Developing special features on policy issues and cultural profiles of ASEM member countries on [culture360.org](http://culture360.org)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

<sup>2</sup> The online portal on arts and culture initiated by ASEM and managed by ASEF; URL: <http://culture360.org/>

The research and dialogue components will be further developed in 2012-13.

### Regional Secretariat

The regional secretariat for Asia will carry out key tasks including funding and administering the project; liaison with Asian governments; and, co-ordination with IFACCA.



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](http://www.asef.org)

ASEF has been actively fostering cultural policy dialogue between Asia and Europe, by serving as an interface between policymakers and the culture sector and by advocating policies favourable to creativity, artistic innovation and cultural diversity at the ASEM level. It does this by organising workshops and conferences for policymakers, artists and cultural practitioners as well as by channelling civil society recommendations to the ASEM Summits and Culture Ministers' Meetings.



ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Commission.



Established in January 1954, the **Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU)** is actively taking its share of responsibility in pursuing the objectives of UNESCO in Korea. Especially in the field of culture, KNCU places great emphasis on the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage in all its forms, while paying foremost attention to the promotion of cultural diversity for sustainable development. KNCU is also actively engaged in various initiatives promoting cultural rights, arts education, creative cities, and intercultural dialogue.



Established in 2004, the office for Hub City of Asian Culture under the **Korean Ministry of Culture Sports and Tourism (MCST)**, aims to make Gwangju metropolitan city into an Asian Cultural Hub through building a network of cultural exchanges among Asian countries. The Asian Culture Complex (ACC), the core facility of Hub City of Asian Culture, scheduled to open in 2014, will provide various venues for exhibition, performance, research, education, and the creation of art and culture. Its function as an incubator, in which creative ideas are nourished, will help the cultural imaginations of Asia be realised into new cultures.

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