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General

## International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS)

In June 1998 the first International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) materialized. The convention, which was organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS, the Netherlands) and the Association for Asian Studies (AAS, USA), was brought into existence because European and American scholars felt a need for closer interaction. Although many individual contacts between researchers from both sides of the Atlantic had already been established, an open, loosely organized forum for discussion was still missing. This forum would allow specialists from all disciplines, regions and paradigms to informally meet, exchange ideas, and engage in new plans for joint research activities.

An academic programme committee, consisting of members from vari-

ous European professional organizations for Asian Studies and representatives from the AAS, selected individual papers, and decided on more than one hundred and thirty panels. Almost one thousand Asianists from Asia, Europe, North America, and Australia participated in ICAS 1. Soon after the convention had taken place, plans were developed for the future. In August 2001, ICAS 2 brought together nearly eight hundred Asian Studies scholars at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Asian participation in the many panels and paper presentations had gone up considerably and even surpassed that in ICAS 1.

### ICAS 3

Two conventions of Asia scholars had taken place in Europe: it was therefore deemed more than desirable that the

next ICAS would be organized in Asia. The National University of Singapore decided to host ICAS 3 from 19 to 22 August 2003. Again, various international research associations from Asia as well as elsewhere will be involved in further developing this multidisciplinary, interregional platform for Asian Studies.

### ICAS Secretariat

During the Berlin meeting it was decided to establish a permanent ICAS Secretariat, which will promote and stimulate ICAS conventions, serve as its archival and information centre, and safeguard the expertise that has been gathered through ICAS. The secretariat will actively pursue making the ICAS clearly visible through its presence at major meetings of Asia scholars and

through its regular reports in the IIAS Newsletter and on the ICAS Secretariat website. The secretariat will also be instrumental in drawing up a regulatory framework for the ICAS activities. The secretariat will be stationed at the IIAS in the Netherlands. For more information please feel free to contact us. <

### Address >

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www.icassecretariat.org

## ICAS 3 Call for Proposals

The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) is one of the largest regular gatherings of scholars whose research centres on Asia and/or Asians, especially in the humanities and social sciences. Building on the success of ICAS 1 (Leiden, 1998) and ICAS 2 (Berlin, 2001), ICAS 3 will be held in Singapore from 19 to 22 August 2003.

ICAS 3 is jointly organized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and is endorsed by the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) and the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS).

Proposals are invited in any Asia-related field of research for: Organized panels; Individual papers; Poster presentations; and Special meetings.

Deadline for submission is 1 October 2002. <

### Contact >

For registration, financial assistance and other queries, please visit the ICAS 3 website at:  
www.fas.nus.edu.sg/icas3

### ICAS3 Organizing Committee

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## European Associations for Asian Studies

### Association for Korean Studies in Europe, AKSE

http://www.akse.uni-kiel.de

### Prof. Werner Sasse (president)

E-mail: or5a007@rrz.uni-hamburg.de

### Secretariat, c/o Dr Antonetta L. Bruno

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### European Association of Chinese Studies, EACS

http://www.soas.ac.uk/eacs

### Prof. Glen Dudbridge (president)

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### Secretariat, c/o Prof. Christian Henriot

E-mail: chenriot@ish-lyon.cnrs.fr

### European Association for Japanese Studies, EAJS

http://www.eajs.org

### Dr Josef A. Kyburz (president)

E-mail: kyburz@ext.jussieu.fr

### Secretariat, c/o Vikoria Heindorf

E-mail: eajs@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

http://www.eajs.org

### Secretary, Dr G.G. Rowley

E-mail: ggrowley@hotmail.com

### European Society for Central Asia Studies, ESCAS

http://www.let.uu.nl/~escas/

### Prof. Turaj Atabaki (president)

E-mail: Turaj.Atabaki@Let.uu.nl

### Secretariat, c/o Dr Cathrine Paul

E-mail: cpoujol33@wanadoo.fr

### European Association for Southeast Asian Studies, EUROSEAS

http://iias.leidenuniv.nl/institutes/kitlv/euroseas

### Prof. Anne Booth (president)

E-mail: ab10@soas.ac.uk

### Secretariat, c/o Prof. Peter Boomgaard

E-mail: boomgaard@kitlv.nl or euroseas@kitlv.nl

### European Association for South Asian Studies, EASAS

### Prof. Dieter Rothermund (president)

E-mail: rotherm@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

### Secretariat, c/o Prof. Dirk Kolff

E-mail: kolff@let.leidenuniv.nl <



Courtesy of ASEF

The ASEF building

www.asef.org

## ASEF 5-Year Anniversary

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) celebrated its fifth anniversary on 15 February this year. With the aim to strengthen the ties between the civil societies of Asia and Europe, members of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) established the foundation in 1997.

By Jessica Yom

In March 1996, the sixteen leaders of the European Union met ten leaders of East Asian countries in Bangkok. At this historic ASEM summit, leaders from the two continents agreed to a comprehensive engagement with each other, recognizing the need to establish diversified tracks to develop links between distinct segments of society in the two regions.<sup>1</sup> The different channels would facilitate increased direct interactions among the relevant constituencies across the continents - political leaders (Asia-Europe Meeting), the business entities (Asia-Europe Business Forum), and the civil societies (Asia-Europe Foundation).

The fifth anniversary celebration in Singapore started with a public lecture by European Union Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy, on recent developments in Asia-Europe relations as well as his visions on the future relations. Then, the new ASEF website (www.asef.org) was ceremonially launched. In the evening, Singaporean Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar attended the official reception at ASEF. On the following evening, ASEF Executive Director, Ambassador Delfin Colomé conducted at an outdoor music concert performed by a European and an Asian orchestra on the ASEF lawn.

The anniversary celebration was resumed in Brussels, where the European Commission is located. Among other events, the inaugural meeting of the ASEF University Alumni Network

and the website launch took place there.

A 'Ground-Breaking Ceremony' has taken place on 6 July with the participation of visiting guest-of-honour, EC President Romano Prodi and Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. The two dignitaries then placed the first two stones for ASEF's new home, into which we expect to move late next year. So we have about one year before we bid adieu to our beautiful home at No.1 Nassim Hill and move west! <

Jessica Jooshim Yom, MA is Project Manager of Public Affairs at ASEF and holds an MA in international relations at Yonsei University, Korea.

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### Note >

<sup>1</sup>ASEF and ASEM have the same twenty-six members - Austria, Belgium, Brunei, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, and European Commission.

### More info >

For more information about ASEF and its activities:  
E-mail: info@asef.org  
Website: www.asef.org

## ESF Asia Committee Travel Grants 2001 - 2003

**F. Adeney-Risakotta, MA** (Amsterdam School for Social Science Research)  
*'The politics of ritual and ritual of politics in the Moluccas. A social and cultural transformation of an Indonesian people'*

**Visit to:** Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique; Paris, France

**Dr M.P Amineh** (Amsterdam School for Social Science Research)  
*'Globalisation and Islam: the rise and decline of Islam as political ideology (1850-2000)'*

**Visit to:** School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS); London, United Kingdom

**Dr C. Dedebant** (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris)  
*'Re-inventing Pakistan/Indian society from without? The formation of South Asian civil society networks outside South Asia'*

**Visit to:** International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, IIAS; Leiden, the Netherlands

**Dr E. Germain** (Journalist, France)  
*'The Chinese Muslim Diaspora at the beginning of the XXth century'*

**Visit to:** Foreign Office Library and SOAS; London, United Kingdom

**Dr P. Ho** (Wageningen University)  
*'Land issues in China'*

**Visit to:** SOAS, Oxford University; United Kingdom

**Dr R. Prior** (Freelance Illustrator, United Kingdom)  
*'The collection of ceramics excavated by Olov Jansé'*

**Visit to:** Leiden University, National Museum Copenhagen; the Netherlands and Denmark

**Dr F. van der Putten** (Leiden University)  
*'Portuguese colonial policy toward foreign direct investment in Macao, 1945 - 1999'*

**Visit to:** Overseas Historical Archives, Lisbon National Library; Lisbon, Portugal

**Dr Y. Sadoi** (International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden)  
*'Human resource development in the automobile industry in Germany and its adaptability to the Japanese automobile manufacturers'*

**Visit to:** Institute for Innovation and Management, SIMT; Germany

**E. Schroeder-Butterfill, MA** (St. Cross College Oxford)  
*'Javanese language study'*

**Visit to:** Leiden University; Leiden, the Netherlands

**F. Suchomel, MA** (Institute of Art History, Prague)  
*'Typological determination of Japanese lacquer ware'*

**Visit to:** Denmark, the Netherlands

**N. Srivastava, MA** (Linacre College, Oxford)  
*'Secular conceptions of India in Salman Rushdie's Midnight Children and Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy'*

**Visit to:** Department of Political Science of South Asia Institute; Heidelberg, Germany

**S. Tsai, MA** (Department of Art History, Heidelberg)  
*'From devotion to entertainment - Woodblock illustrated books of the life of the Buddha in East Asia'*

**Visit to:** University of Cambridge; Cambridge, United Kingdom <