



Asia-Europe Training Course
“Environmental Human Rights:
A Present and Future Challenge for Youth Work”
9 – 15 November 2010
Seoul, Republic of Korea

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

Asia-Europe Training Courses are important intercultural learning instruments of non-formal education that focus on the personal and professional development of young people and on the capacity building of youth organisations in Asia and Europe. These activities aim at bringing together the next generation of leaders, equipping them with knowledge, skills and attitudes that enables them to make meaningful contacts, address negotiations, have significant exchanges and deal in a fruitful and open way with any type of interregional issues within their efforts to deepen the Asia-Europe co-operation one step further.

The Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) have in common a commitment to intercultural dialogue through youth work and youth cooperation. A first cooperation activity was held at the European Youth Centre Budapest in 2009: a training course on intercultural dialogue and human rights education. After the success of that training course both partners decided to continue their cooperation and provide their respective youth partners with further opportunities to learn and work together, to exchange experience and ideas and to develop common projects and cooperation.

ASEF and the Council of Europe's youth sector will focus their cooperation in 2010 on an issue that is important and relevant for the Asia-Europe context and for the globalised world: environmental rights, which are the “next generation” of human rights. Given the interconnected world that we live in today, the advancement of technology, medicine, and philosophy, as well as the environmental challenges brought by climate change and global warming, existing human rights are affected and sometimes new ones are being claimed. Among the currently debated rights, environmental rights are understood to revolve largely around the idea of a right to a liveable environment both for the present and the future generations.

These claims are being challenged by the consequences of economic and financial crises in many European countries and by the failure of the global drive for countering climate change, which recently came forward again at the Climate Summit in Copenhagen in 2009. Cooperation between citizens and non-governmental are in this situation even more important, especially in understanding the common challenges and needs, in learning about the mutual realities and concerns and in building a common concern for environmental protection rooted on equality of human dignity and of human needs.

Despite the geographical continuum between the Asian and the European continents, the contacts and cooperation between civil societies, especially youth organisations and movements, remain sporadic and loose. By organising this training course and continuing their cooperation, the youth sector of the Council of Europe and the Asia-Europe Foundation re-affirm their commitment to support global youth cooperation and solidarity and to stimulate the intercultural dialogue that takes into account the concerns of young people.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Through the training course, young people from Asia and Europe will have the opportunity to explore issues related to environmental rights and the contribution that non-formal education and youth work can bring to this area.

This Asia-Europe training aims to explore the role and contribution of youth work and non-formal education in developing environmental human rights education in Asia and Europe. The training will:

- Develop participants' understandings and competence in the areas of non-formal education, youth work and environmental human rights in the way they are understood in Asia and Europe;
- Discuss understandings of human rights, environmental human rights and the role of youth work and non-formal education in promoting them;
- Share youth work practices and responses, based on human rights education, in the participants' countries and organisations;
- Explore and prepare for follow-up initiatives and projects among participants in the field of environmental human rights and human rights education.

PROGRAMME AND WORKING METHODS

The programme of the training course will combine sessions focused on improving participants' knowledge, skills and attitudes with experience and expertise sharing. The training course will be structured as a five day programme, will gather up to 26 youth workers from Asia and Europe and will combine plenary sessions, working groups, debates and study sessions.

The use of non-formal learning methodologies, particularly those aiming at human rights education, will give the training an interactive approach, encouraging the active participation of experts, participants, trainers and facilitators and leading to follow-up projects among the participants.

The following areas and concepts will be explored during the training-course:

Environment and Human Rights

- What are the connections between the two fields?
- What is already done in these fields at this moment?
- What could be an added-value contribution of human rights education?

Non-Formal Education

- What is the contribution of non-formal education to the development of environmental (rights) education?
- What are the tools that can be used for developing environmental rights further?
- How can youth work contribute to the development of policies in the field of environmental rights?
- What are the concrete actions that youth organisations can take in order to create an impact on environmental human rights?

Public and Private Sector

- What is the role played by the public and private sectors in environmental education?
- How could the 2 sectors contribute more?
- What policies are already in place and what policies would be needed in the field of environmental rights?

The programme will be prepared and implemented by a team of experienced trainers from Asia and from Europe.

An online e-learning dimension may be added to the course in its preparatory phase and in the evaluation and follow-up.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The course is prepared and run for participants who:

- Are citizen of a Council of Europe member state¹ or an ASEM partner countries²;
- Are aged between 18 and 30 years (exceptions are possible if justified);
- Are fluent in English as a working language;
- Are active in a youth organisations and/or in environmental organisations, OR
- Are representatives from universities (particularly those who are involved in environmental issues or in other related fields),
- Have experience in environmental education, human rights or human rights education;
- Are interested in developing future Asia-Europe youth cooperation projects in the areas of environmental education, human rights education or education for sustainable development;
- Are supported by their organisation to take part in the course;
- Are motivated to take part in the course, to learn and share experiences with other participants and to remain active in this field after the course;
- Are available for the full duration of the training and, possibly, for on-line work in the four weeks before the training and the 8 weeks afterwards.

The organisers will select a group of 26 participants based on the perceived suitability of their profile, motivation and interests in attending the training course. The organisers aim to have a balanced group, regarding geographical origin and gender.

APPLICATIONS

Those interested in applying to take part in the training course should fill in their application on-line at: <http://youthapplications.coe.int> before **9 September**. Applicants must also upload an updated **CV**, a **photo** and a **recommendation letter** from their organisation stating its interest in the training and Asia-Europe youth cooperation. If you face any difficulty with the online application form, please contact the site administrator.

Applicants are requested NOT to make any travel arrangements until they receive an official confirmation from the organisers.

PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Selected participants are expected to arrive in Seoul on 9 November and to depart on 15 November and must be available for the full duration of the course.

Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organisers for the duration of the training.

The Council of Europe will reimburse the travel expenses of European participants up to a maximum of EUR 750 per participant. The Asia-Europe Foundation will cover the travel expenses of Asian participants up to EUR 500 per participants. The reimbursement will be effective only by bank transfer after the course and after the provision of the original travel documents. Visa costs can also be part of the reimbursement.

ABOUT PARTNERS AND ORGANIZERS

¹ The Council of Europe has 47 member states: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

² The ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) now brings together 43 member states (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) plus the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission

The **Asia-Europe Foundation** was established in February 1997 under the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process, which groups together 43 countries from Asia and Europe, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM was launched at a summit meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 1996 to inject greater impetus to efforts to strengthen relations and linkages between Asia and Europe at all levels - political, economic and social. ASEF was set up pursuant to the third (social) pillar of ASEM, and has been mandated to create better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

The **Council of Europe** is the oldest and largest European intergovernmental organisation. Founded in 1949, it brings together 47 member states. The Council of Europe works for the promotion and deepening of the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe coordinates the organisation's activities in the field of youth and sport. In the youth field, this includes the work of the European Youth Foundation, the European Youth Centres in Budapest and in Strasbourg, as well as a Partial Agreement on the Youth Card and a partnership with the European Commission in the field of Youth.

The youth sector of the Council of Europe has an outstanding reputation for promoting youth policy cooperation, intercultural learning and international youth cooperation.

At present, its work priorities are covering four main areas:

- Living Together in Different Societies (youth and work and youth policy promoting intercultural dialogue), including global youth solidarity and cooperation;
- Human Rights and Democracy, including human rights education and sustainable development;
- Social Inclusion of Young People;
- Youth Policy Cooperation.

Useful Internet sites:

www.coe.int/youth

www.coe.int/compass

www.coe.int/enter

International Workcamp Organization (IWO) was established in 1999 to promote Peace, Citizenship, Youth Empowerment and Community Development through inter-cultural exchange and international volunteering. It co-ordinates the volunteer exchange, youth exchange and development projects with various partner organizations worldwide. Every year, more than 3,000 youth and volunteers join our various projects in 70 countries to contribute to the better world.