



## ASEM POZNAŃ 2010

### Background information 4th ASEM (Asia-Europe) Culture Ministers' Meeting

The culture ministers of the ASEM group of European Union and East, South and South-East Asian countries meet every two years. Their main goal is to plan shared activities in the field of culture, in order to promote the development and deepening of the cultural dialogue between Europe and Asia.

The 1<sup>st</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting took place in Beijing in December 2003. France, Denmark, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore co-organised it. Cultural diversity was its main theme. The ministers recognised the crucial role that the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) could play in cultural exchanges, and resolved to boost the number of youth exchanges and to organise joint cultural and artistic events.

In June 2005, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' meeting was held in Paris. Its discussions focussed on "Cultural Diversity: Opportunities and Challenges – ASEM's Long-Term Plans". The meeting adopted an Action Plan of Culture Ministers, which outlined the main areas of ASEM's cultural cooperation.

Delegations from 36 countries participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Culture Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in April 2008. This conference focussed on "Cultural Diversity – Realising the Action Plan". Discussions addressed strengthening international professional networks; promoting cultural events and international exchanges of artists; facilitating cooperation between theatres, art centres, museums and publishers; advancing balanced cultural tourism and creating Cultural Points of Contact to further communication among the ASEM countries' ministries of culture.

Poznań will host the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting. Its theme is "Heritage and the Challenges of the Present". The goal of its discussions will be to develop a common position on the preservation of heritage. Here, ASEM's practical activities (such as organising internships and research exchanges or preserving monuments) will complement the work of UNESCO. An important event accompanying this meeting will be the opening of the Mediations Biennale 2010 (<http://www.mediations.pl/>), an exhibition of contemporary Asian and European art, on 10 September in the Zamek Centre of Culture in Poznań.

The Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the National Centre for Culture, the City of Poznań, Greater Poland Province and the International Culture Centre are co-sponsoring this meeting.

Additional information is available on <http://4asemcmm.mkidn.gov.pl/en>

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