

A Comparative Look At Crises And Responses In Asia And Europe



The EU Centre in Singapore, NUS and the Free University of Berlin’s Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) project recently organised a round-table discussion on crises and responses in Asia and Europe at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House on 2 October 2015.

The speakers in the panel discussed how Europe and Asia have dealt with financial, refugee and security crises. EUC Director Dr Yeo Lay Hwee compared the nature of regionalism in ASEAN and the EU, using the analogy of ASEAN as a farmer and the EU as an industrialist to try and capture the essence of the differences between these two entities and try to explain the ways in which they responded to the crises confronting them.

This story continues Dr Gail Press-Barnathan then analysed two different types of on Page 6.

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SEASONS GREETINGS

As 2015 draws to a close, the EU Centre’s Director Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for an interesting and fruitful year of collaboration.

We would also like to wish all our colleagues, partners, friends and readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

EU-ASEAN Policy Challenge: Promoting ASEAN Tourism – The Finals

The EU Centre in Singapore, with the support of AirAsia and the ASEAN Foundation, launched the EU-ASEAN Policy Challenge – “Promoting ASEAN Tourism” earlier this year where we invited youths in ASEAN to come up with concrete policies to help promote tourism in the ASEAN region and to reflect on the challenges of economic integration.

We received 45 submissions and out of these, four teams were selected to compete in the finals which was held at the InterContinental Hotel on the 12th November 2015. The teams—three from Singapore and one from Indonesia—



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EUAP HK's Urban Innovations Series 2015 on "Hamburg – A European Green Capital" showcases the city's best practices and launches HK-EU dialogues on urban innovations



Photo: EUAP HK

The seminar "Hamburg – Hong Kong Dialogue: 21st Century Challenges in Urban Planning – A Comparison" with Mrs. Susanne Metz (First Director General, Directorate-General for Regional Planning and Urban Development Hamburg), Mr. K.K. Ling (Director of Planning Department of the HKSARG) and Prof. Tang Bo-sin (Professor of Dept. of Urban Planning and Design of the University of Hong Kong) attracted a full house.

This series of "Urban Innovations" 2015-2016 was designed to present current European thinking on issues of urban development, solutions for urban problems and pan-European cooperation in these fields. From September to December 2015, we organized more than 10 events including exhibitions, roundtable discussions and seminars. Focusing on four main areas (Clean Port, Green Building, Urban Planning and Clean Energy), the series discussed some of the best practices in Hamburg, the European Green Capital of 2011. The issues selected are those of great concern to Hong Kong as it faced continued pressure and challenges in its urbanization and economy.

The cooperation with HKSAR Planning Department and Environment Bureau, Hamburg's City Development & Housing Affairs Department, German Consulate Office in Hong Kong, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Port of Hamburg, Green Building Council Hong Kong and other various NGOs made possible for an inclusive and enhanced dialogue and people-to-people contacts between HK and the EU on issues of genuine mutual interest. The series reached over 600 people from different sectors of society including members from the governments, diplomatic bodies, business community, civil society as well as academia.

The 30 panel exhibition "Hamburg – A European Green Capital: 'Green, Inclusive, Growing City by the Water: Perspectives On Urban Development'" was organized to

showcase long-term urban planning concepts and their concrete implementation in the city of Hamburg on Urbanization, Social Inclusion, Green and Environment-friendly City as well as Urban Development in the Business Metropolis. It was held from October to December at the City Gallery and was co-organized with the City Gallery.



Photo: EUAP HK

Above: In one of the exhibition guided tours, Lennart Albrecht, a native "Hamburger" and former guide of IBA was demonstrating how the StadtRad bike rental system works

Special Thanks to our Partners

The EU Centre in Singapore would like to thank Ms. Doris Lee (EUAP HK) and Dr. Rui Flores (EUAP-Macau) for their kind contributions to the 10th issue of EUCI Asia.

Third edition of the Model European Union brings together 56 students from six universities of Macau to discuss the current migrant crisis in Europe

Fifty-six students – undergraduate and postgraduate – from six tertiary institutions of Macau participated on 28 and 29 November 2015 at the third edition of the Macau Model European Union (EU). As a sign of the diversity of Macau, participants were from twelve different nationalities. The event took place at the Senate Room of the University of Macau (UM).

Model EU is an educational simulation in which participants recreate the political decision-making of a European Council, at the level of heads of state and government, to learn about European politics and current issues. This year's topic was the unprecedented migrant crisis affecting Europe. Participants displayed a deep understanding of the functioning of the EU as well as of the positions of the countries they were representing.



Photo: EUAP Macau

Above: Ms Flaminia Venturi, one of the three best participants of the EUAP Model EU 2015

Below: Model EU Participants in a Group Photo



Photo: EUAP Macau

At the end of the lively two-day discussion, students reached a consensus on a set of conclusions, which included, among others the strengthening of external border control, enhanced financial support to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as the adoption of common legal instruments to reinforce the fight against illegal smuggling and human trafficking.

The three best participants (the team of two delegates from Poland as well as the best individual participant, a student representing Slovenia) were awarded free study missions to Europe next summer. They were Lin Shixiang and Liang Jian Wei (from the UM) and Flaminia

Venturi (an exchange student from Italy, currently studying at the UM). Runner-ups included the teams representing Spain (Xin Xiaoyang, Macau University of Science and Technology, and Lv Chenge, UM), and France (Zhou Yiding and Zhang Xiaoping, UM). Runner-ups will be awarded a cash prize of MOP 1,000 each. The study missions are funded by the European Union Academic Programme in Macao.

The runner-ups of the individual participants competition were Jose Miguel de la Rose Ortiz (delegate from Greece, UM), and Wang Anni (Bulgaria, UM).

This story continues on Page 4.

EU Short Film competition discusses development of Macau



Photo: EUAP Macau

Photo: EUAP Macau

Above: Winners of the EUAP Macau's Short Film Competition.

Left: Participants of the Short Film Competition in a group photo.

The 2015 edition of the EU Short Film Challenge was held on 3 December at the University of Macau, with the screening of the nine films produced by the students of the Department of Communication enrolled at the Video Workshop course. "Under the Neon", a documentary about the scavengers who make their living by recycling cartons in Macau, won the competition. The film was directed by Grace Kou and Shirley Cheong.

The theme of this year's competition was **#development**. As 2015 is the European Year for Development, the students were challenged to produce short films around this theme. They have used documentary and narrative approaches to explore how Macau and its residents have developed and changed in recent years, and nine films were presented. This is the second year that the EUAP-M has organized this competition with the Department of Communication at the University of Macau. More than 60 students were involved in the production of the films.

Continued from Page 3: Third edition of the Model European Union brings together 56 students from six universities of Macau to discuss the current migrant crisis in Europe

The best position paper of the 28 member-states presented at the opening of the Summit was awarded to the team representing Portugal (Han Xiangzhi and Chen Cheng, UM). They won a cash prize of MOP 3,000.

The 56 participants (chosen from a total of 160 applicants) came from the UM, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau Polytechnic Institute, University of Saint Joseph, City University of Macau, and Institute for Tourism Studies.

UM, and held with the support of the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), the Department of Government and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as the Faculty of Law of the UM.

Established in 2012, the EUAP-M is a partnership between the UM and the IEEM, co-financed by the European Union. It aims to bring the EU to the closer attention of the Macau's general public and, in particular, students of all levels.

The event was co-organized by the EUAP-M and the Youth Association of International Affairs (YAIA) of the

EU-ASEAN Policy Challenge: Promoting ASEAN Tourism – The Finals



Continued from Page 1 gave very interesting presentations of their proposals to a panel of five judges at the competition finals.

Team Anambas – consisting of members Ms Avina Nadhila Widarsa, Ms Raisa Annisa and Ms Sani Novika – proposed networking with stakeholders to develop a tourism smartphone app entitled “OneClick ASEAN”. The team noted that ASEAN only shares 8.2% of total international tourism arrivals, and that the app is aimed at targeting ICT users in the ASEAN region to make travelling easier. They proposed a 3-year timeline to develop this app where hackathons would be held to create more buzz about the project

Ms Lim Hwee Woon, Ms Matilda Tang and Ms Sim Jun Ling of Team NUS called for the creation of ASEAN Tourism Centres to provide a one-stop visa application service, and establish a common tourism marketing and service strategy to attract more tourists into the region. They cited global tourism trends such as the growing number of middle-class and millennial travellers in ASEAN, and felt that there was a need to package ASEAN as a single destination in order to woo travellers into the region. Team NUS argued that a strong ASEAN brand would be beneficial in creating unique travel packages such as ASEAN-themed cruises.

Team SG500 – consisting of Mr Pung Jing Yi, Mr Jason Tey and Mr Mayer Tung – took a different approach to

enhancing ASEAN tourism by looking at the “seasonality” factor. The team noted that the unique seasonality of ASEAN destinations can be better marketed through collaboration with crowdsourcing websites and social media sites. Also, the team proposed the creation of an ASEAN Travel Pass and a specialised ASEAN tour series that would ride on the seasonality factor in the region.

Last but not least, Team Ten-One-Oh-Eight (consisting of NUS students Mr Shawn Teo, Mr Lai Wei Xuan and Ms Dorothy So) focused on the development of soft infrastructure and suggested that ASEAN nations develop a Consumer Protection Act to protect locals and tourists from negative business practices. They also looked at the development and monitoring of policies, and the branding of the region as a single travel destination through phased development plan to be implemented over a 5 to 10 year period from 2016 – 2025..

The presentations were well received by the judges and the audience, and at the end of the event, Team SG500 was declared the winner,. Due to a tie in scores, both Team NUS and Team Ten-One-Oh-Eight shared the 1st Runner-Up position. Team Anambas finished as the 2nd Runner Up.

Launch of EU Centre's New SG50 Book in Brussels



The EU Centre in cooperation with the Singapore Embassy in Brussels and the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) organised the launch of the EU Centre's SG50 book on "50 Years of Singapore-Europe Relations" on 20th October in Brussels. This was followed by a panel discussion comprising Mr Sorin Moisa, Member of the European Parliament and Leader of the Friends of Singapore in the Parliament, Mr Michael Matthiessen from the European External Action Service and Mr Ethan Chua, Deputy Head of Mission at the Singapore Embassy.

Dr Yeo Lay Hwee, Director of the EU Centre gave a quick introduction to the book and emphasized the close ties that Singapore has enjoyed with many of the European states and the European Union. In the panel discussion, speakers spoke about the role that Singapore played in launching the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the potential that the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would have on economic and commercial ties, and the opportunities for strengthening the political partnership between Singapore, ASEAN and the EU.

A short report on this event is available at <http://www.eucentre.sg/?p=11275>.

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challenges the crises can generate such as policy and political challenges that relate to functional and institutional matters and normative challenges. She argued that the first type of challenge boils down to issue of burden sharing which is a classic challenge for international cooperation, while the second goes into the core of debate about European identity with liberal democracy and human rights.

Next, Prof. Hidetoshi Nakamura (University of Tokyo) spoke about East Asia's responses to crises and noted that the region needs to be better prepared for future crises, for instance, possible refugee crisis. He also suggested that it is important to talk about regionalization which is different from regionalism and touches on issues such as regional identities and how crises can strengthen the sense of community.

Lastly, Prof. Tanja A Börzel (Free University of Berlin, Germany) gave her thoughts on the importance of comparative studies of regionalism, arguing that much can be learned from looking at the different trajectories of regionalism, and how regions like Asia and Europe respond to different crises. While both regions may not be effective in dealing with different crises, Prof Borzel argues that both ASEAN and the EU can learn from each other on the best practices and policies to address common problems.

A full report on this event can be found at www.tinyurl.com/euasiacr.

Food Security & Water Management Seminar with SPI and NTU RSIS



The EU Centre in Singapore and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) hosted Dr Sara Medina of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI) at a seminar on 30 September that explored Food Security & Water Management in ASEAN

Dr Medina explored the best practices and support structures of ASEAN countries such as Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in areas such as shrimp farming and ground-water management. She also gave an overview of the best practices in Food Security and Water Management in Europe, drawing on examples from Austria, Germany, Portugal, France, Sweden and the Netherlands. She then elaborated on the Vienna's Wastewater Treatment Plant, a project that purifies the waste-water of Vienna households using renewable energy technologies to minimize the required resource input.

A full report on this event can be found at www.tinyurl.com/eursisdir.

The History Of Industrial Finance In Continental Europe And Its Relevance To Con-



The EU Centre organised a seminar on 8th October by Ms. Olga Mikheeva (PhD candidate and Junior Research Fellow, Tallinn University of Technology) on the history of industrial finance in Continental Europe and its relevance to contemporary cases in Southeast Asia.

Ms. Mikheeva gave a short overview on development finance institutions (DFIs) and their historical roots from the first industrial banks founded during the first half of the 19th century in Europe. She also presented case studies of DFIs in East and Southeast Asian countries, including the great Japanese industrial banks and the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS). Here, she discussed the policy mandates of these banks in the past and today, noting that they continue to represent “knowledge organisations” whose task is to anticipate demand by identifying new sectors and activities with higher productivity as well as with higher socio-economic returns.

A full report on this panel discussion can be found at www.tinyurl.com/eucdfi.

The Importance Of Quality Higher Education For A Region On The Rise



The EU Centre hosted a public lecture on 12th October by Professor Rolf Tarrach (President, European University Association) on the topic of higher education in Europe and ASEAN.

Prof. Tarrach covered several challenges in the European higher education landscape that ASEAN might want to avoid, for example, the unwillingness to experiment, the merger of universities to boost rankings, the lack of gender diversity and the decrease of permanent research positions. He also found time to discuss where the EU and ASEAN can learn from each other in terms of direct evaluation of research work, and argued that the EU and ASEAN can work closer together through initiatives such as the Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE). In the case of the latter, Prof. Tarrach mooted a Southeast Asian Credit Transfer System which the EU would be able to lend support.

A report on the lecture can be found at www.tinyurl.com/qualedu.

How To Promote Inclusive Growth? Case Studies From Asia And Europe



The EU Centre in Singapore, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) held a book launch cum panel discussion on Minimum Wages, Collective Bargaining and Economic Development in Asia and Europe on the 18 November 2015 (Wednesday).

This edited volume is based primarily on contributions made to the Asia-Europe Labour Forum (AELF) set up by FES in 2009. The panel discussion featured five of the book’s contributing authors, who shared their research on minimum wage and collective bargaining policies in Asia and Europe. Case studies of countries such as India,

Indonesia, France and Italy were cited in the panel discussion, and a robust question and answer session followed the speakers’ presentations,

A full report on this public talk can be found at www.tinyurl.com/euinclgro.



Working Paper 25: EU Competition Law: A Roadmap for ASEAN?

By Ms. Barbora Valockova, EU Centre in Singapore

This working paper provides an overview of the Competition regimes in the EU and Southeast Asia, and aims at analysing whether EU competition law could serve as a template for ASEAN. For a copy of this working paper, please go to <http://www.eucentre.sg/?p=11358>.



Policy Brief 9: Can ASEM remain relevant in the 21st Century World?

By Dr Yeo Lay Hwee, Director, EU Centre in Singapore

This policy brief tries to address the question on how ASEM can move forward and remain relevant in an increasingly uncertain and volatile world, and argues that it can leverage on its diverse membership and fluidity to enable the building of transnational networks. <http://www.eucentre.sg/?p=10853>.



Background Brief 15: The European and Southeast Asian Single Aviation Markets

By Mr. Dexter Lee, Policy & Programme Executive, EU Centre in Singapore

This background brief chronicles the changes made in the aviation sector in the EU and ASEAN through regional integration and examines how these changes have affected policymaking in member states, the airline industry and consumers. For a copy of this brief, please go to <http://www.eucentre.sg/?p=10543>.



Book: The Future of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

This recently published book, which is commissioned by the European Union, contains a chapter by EUC Director Dr Yeo Lay Hwee on ASEM and APEC. The chapter compares the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) with ASEM, and reflects on possible lessons that could be learnt from APEC in order to take ASEM forward.

A digital copy of the book is available on our website at <http://www.eucentre.sg/?p=10981>.

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