

# PREFACE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Mapping for Funding Opportunities for International Cultural Exchange in Asia* comes nine months after the launch of the first edition and includes relevant updates in the international and regional guides.

A new guide for Bangladesh is also available now and lists national, regional and international funding institutions supporting cultural mobility to and from the country. With this new country guide, we welcome Bangladesh to the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

The launch of this edition follows an important gathering, namely the *Platform Meeting of Asian and European Mobility Funders* (5-6 June 2013, Prague, Czech Republic), supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Arts Network Asia through their joint initiative, *Creative Encounters: Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe*. In Prague, 45 public and private mobility funders from Asia and Europe discussed issues and challenges related to the transnational movement of artists and cultural professionals. Organised by the Arts & Theatre Institute (Czech Republic), the Kelola Foundation (Indonesia) and On the Move, the meeting aimed to place cultural mobility at the heart of policies governing international cultural co-operation.

Among the key findings of the meeting was that cultural mobility not only impacts travelling artists, but also the communities they engage with abroad and in their own country. The cultural, social and environmental impacts of mobility need monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring should take place throughout the process of the mobility experience, while the evaluation should have a long-term perspective. A warning was sounded against superficial mobility experiences: attention and support should instead go to “deep” experiences that give sense and strength to cultural diversity and mutual understanding.

Funders were called upon to support greater bi-directional mobility (from Europe to Asia and vice-versa) through open support mechanisms fitting the needs of mobile artists. The importance of non-monetary exchange in supporting mobility and fostering reciprocity was also highlighted. An important recommendation in this regard was to encourage local cultural bodies to work as 'interface organisations' and facilitate 'fair exchange' by providing visiting artists with valuable local information and contacts. Read the full report of this meeting:

<http://on-the-move.org/about/ourownnews/article/15512/platform-meeting-of-asian-and-european-cultural/>

We hope you will find this updated 2<sup>nd</sup> edition a useful resource.

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