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Asians and Europeans discuss strengthening cooperation

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Professors, researchers from member countries of ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) met on 3 and 4 December in Singapore as part of a seminar entitled "ASEM Outlook 2012" to discuss measures to promote relations between the Asia and Europe following the 9th ASEM Summit last November in Vientiane, Laos.

Jointly organized by the Asia-Europe Fund (AEF) and the Centre for Studies and comparative regional United Nations University, it is the 4th seminar every year since 2008 to study the relationship between the two continents. This 2012 edition is devoted to the study of new policies for the various areas of cooperation intended to be discussed and adopted at the next ASEM dialogue.



Seminar "ASEM Outlook 2012", 3 and 4 December in Singapore.
Photo: Huong Giang / CVN

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Weather

Ha Noi		16 °C
Hai Phong		17 °C
Hue		23 °C
Da Nang		24 °C
Nha Trang		25 °C
Ho Chi Minh		24 °C

Source: <http://www.msn.com>

Under the theme "Asia-Europe relations, perception and future", participants addressed many issues of bilateral relations. According to Anupama Sekha, one of the means to develop these relationships is the "cultural diplomacy". Cultural dialogue is indeed regarded as an important pillar of deepening mutual understanding. Several countries are currently given priority to cultural diplomacy which allows rich set of cultural cooperation, including between non-governmental organizations and foundations. Multilateral cooperation is equally important. "The case of EUNIC (National Institutes for Culture of the European Union) is a successful example of multilateral cooperation in culture", said Anupama Sekha. In Vietnam, September embassies and European institutes are part of the Vietnam EUNIC working to promote European cultural diversity in Vietnam by the films, the organization of the week European languages, or artistic representations. **Relations Asia - today Europe** The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have created their cooperation forum in 1996, the Asia-Europe Meeting, which currently has 47 member states Europe and Asia. Its purpose is to establish a new partnership in all fields between the two continents to ensure strong growth and good mutual understanding, as well as being a mechanism for dialogue strong and equal partner. It also promotes the maintenance of peace and stability in the service of sustainable socioeconomic development. Every two years, ASEM holds its summit where the heads of state and government discuss measures to address the obstacles to bilateral cooperation.

themes of "ASEM Outlook 2012" are identical to those treated during the 9th ASEM Summit in Vientiane, with the difference that the speakers are not leaders and officials. These researchers have expressed their views on bilateral cooperation in this period, including the connection between government and civil society, regional integration, etc. In addition to the economic and financial issues, sustainable development, public health, migration and employment have been dealt with extensively.

To strengthen relations between the two continents, "the important thing is to intensify the dialogue", said concluded Thiem Schwaiz, Director of Exchange intellectual ASEP.

Huong Giang / CVN (Singapore)