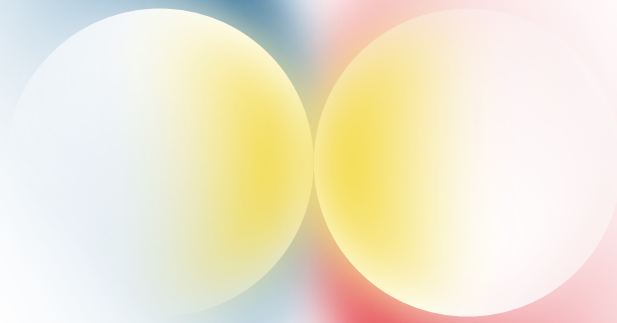


# KONNECT ASEAN FINAL REPORT 2020-2023



**AKCF** ASEAN-KOREA  
COOPERATION  
FUND 1993-2023



ASEAN FOUNDATION



**KONNECT**  
A S E A N

EMBRACE UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Prepared by  
ASEAN FOUNDATION

# Foreword



**H.E. Lee Jang-keun**  
Ambassador to ASEAN  
Republic of Korea

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the publication of the final report of KONNECT ASEAN.

KONNECT ASEAN is a project designed to connect young artists of Korea and ASEAN countries by providing them with opportunities to work together, learn from each other, share their talents, and build a sense of community. As you will find in this report, I am very happy to share with you that KONNECT ASEAN has successfully delivered its expected outcomes and made invaluable contributions to achieving ASEAN's community vision.

As you may all agree, art and culture plays a pivotal role not only in building an ASEAN community but also in fostering dynamism in the region. Art and culture functions as a catalyst for mutual understanding, cultivating a shared sense of identity and unity within the ASEAN Community as well as between ASEAN and dialogue partners.

In this context, KONNECT ASEAN has become one of the most significant projects supported by the Korean government through the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and implemented by the ASEAN Foundation. The project has helped shape an interconnected community that appreciates the diverse cultures of ASEAN member states and Korea. Through the programme, artists demonstrated that art, as a unifying force, plays a significant role in bringing together diverse people and cultures to create a harmonious tapestry. It also provided them invaluable opportunities to exhibit their artworks and share their talents. The programme not only promoted greater appreciation for the cultures,

arts and traditions of the ASEAN countries and Korea, but also provided insights in dealing with our past, present, and the post-pandemic future.

As we reflect on the resounding success of KONNECT ASEAN, I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have been a part of the journey. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Dr Piti Srisangnam and his team for their unwavering efforts to bring the project and this publication to fruition. I also express my deep thanks to all artists who took part in KONNECT ASEAN for their participation and generous contributions. I am very proud that KONNECT ASEAN presents an excellent example for how collaboration among artists from different backgrounds can promote cultural bonds and people-to-people exchange.

Socio-cultural cooperation is a crucial part of the Korea-ASEAN partnership as reflected in the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI), Korea's ASEAN-tailored foreign policy announced by President Yoon Seok-Yeol in November 2022 at the 23rd ASEAN-Korea Summit in Cambodia.

Marking the 35th anniversary of ASEAN and the ROK partnership this year, ASEAN and Korea are set to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). This will serve as yet another opportunity for Korea and ASEAN to reassure its commitment for stronger, wider and deeper partnership, in particular through cooperation in art and culture. We look forward to having more active art and culture collaborations that lead to a deeper and stronger ASEAN-ROK friendship and solidarity.



**Dr Piti Srisangnam**  
Executive Director  
ASEAN Foundation

Dear Stakeholders, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with great pride and a sense of accomplishment that we present the final report for KONNECT ASEAN, an ASEAN-Korea arts programme from 2020-2023. A transformative journey spanning four years dedicated to fostering connectivity, collaboration, and sustainable arts development across ASEAN.

In the face of unprecedented global challenges, KONNECT ASEAN emerged as a beacon of innovation, resilience, and cooperation. From its inception to this concluding moment, the programme has been a testament to the power of regional collaboration in driving positive change and laying the foundation for a more prosperous future.

This report encompasses the highlights of KONNECT ASEAN, outlining the key milestones achieved, challenges overcome, and the impact made on the socio-cultural fabric of the ASEAN community. It reflects the collective efforts of our dedicated team, valued partners, and the unwavering support of stakeholders who believed in the vision of a connected and thriving cultural sector in ASEAN.

As we delve into the pages of this report, we invite you to join us in celebrating the successes, analysing the lessons learned, and envisioning the path forward. KONNECT ASEAN has not only strengthened the bonds between ASEAN Member States and Korea but has also sown the seeds for sustainable growth, innovation, and inclusive development.

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive overview of the programme's objectives, the strategies employed, and the tangible outcomes achieved. From knowledge sharing to capacity building, policy advocacy to audience engagement, KONNECT ASEAN has left an indelible mark on the region's artistic landscape.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the artists and creative workers, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, and the people of ASEAN and Korea for their unwavering support and commitment throughout this journey. Together, we have overcome challenges, harnessed opportunities, and collectively shaped a future that is more connected, resilient, and united.

May the legacy of KONNECT ASEAN endure as a symbol of the potential that lies in regional collaboration, and may its impact continue to ripple through the ASEAN community for years to come.

# Introduction



**Mr Benjamin Hampe**

Project Director  
KONNECT ASEAN  
ASEAN Foundation

In 2019, amidst the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-Korea relations, the inception of the KONNECT ASEAN project symbolised a commitment to fostering stronger ties and mutual growth between Korea and the ASEAN community. ASEAN nations and Korea sent a clear signal that they were eager to highlight the enduring bonds of cultural exchange and the integral role contemporary arts has in international relations and our everyday lives. It was a significant milestone, heralding a new era for cultural diplomacy and regional integration.

However, our journey took an unexpected turn as the world was thrust into the COVID-19 pandemic from early 2020. This tested our resolve and emphasised the critical importance of adaptability in the face of adversity.

As a result, KONNECT ASEAN evolved, embracing innovative formats such as hybrid exhibitions and online forums to maintain momentum and ensure continuity of engagement. These platforms proved invaluable, facilitating meaningful exchanges and fostering connections despite physical distancing measures.

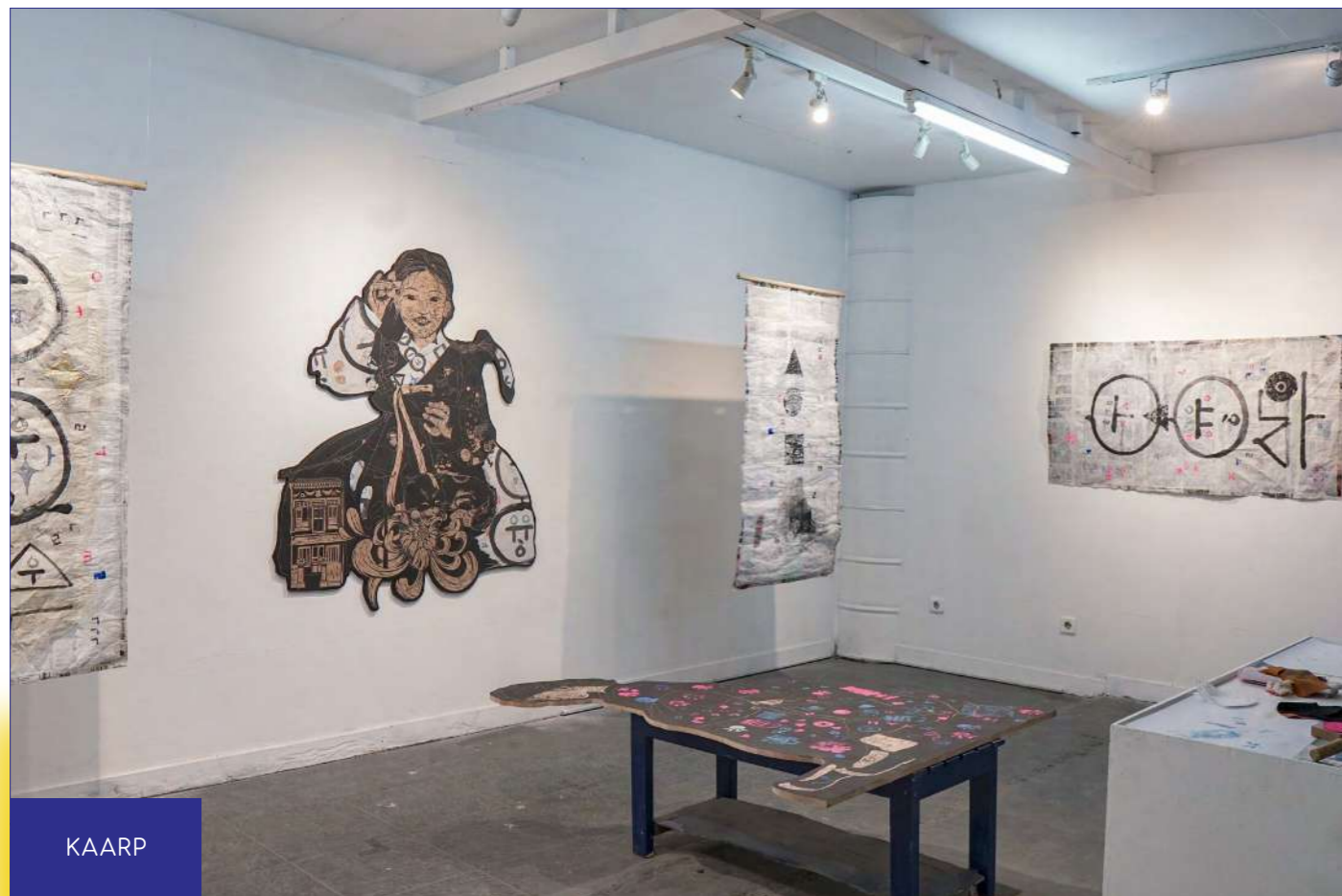
In response to the changing cultural landscape, the project underwent strategic adjustments, including the incorporation of in-person residencies and conferences. These activities provided a unique opportunity for deeper in-country immersion and collaboration between individuals and communities, bridging the gap between virtual interactions and real-world engagement.

As we reflect on the journey of KONNECT ASEAN, we celebrate not only the milestones achieved but also the resilience demonstrated by artists and cultural

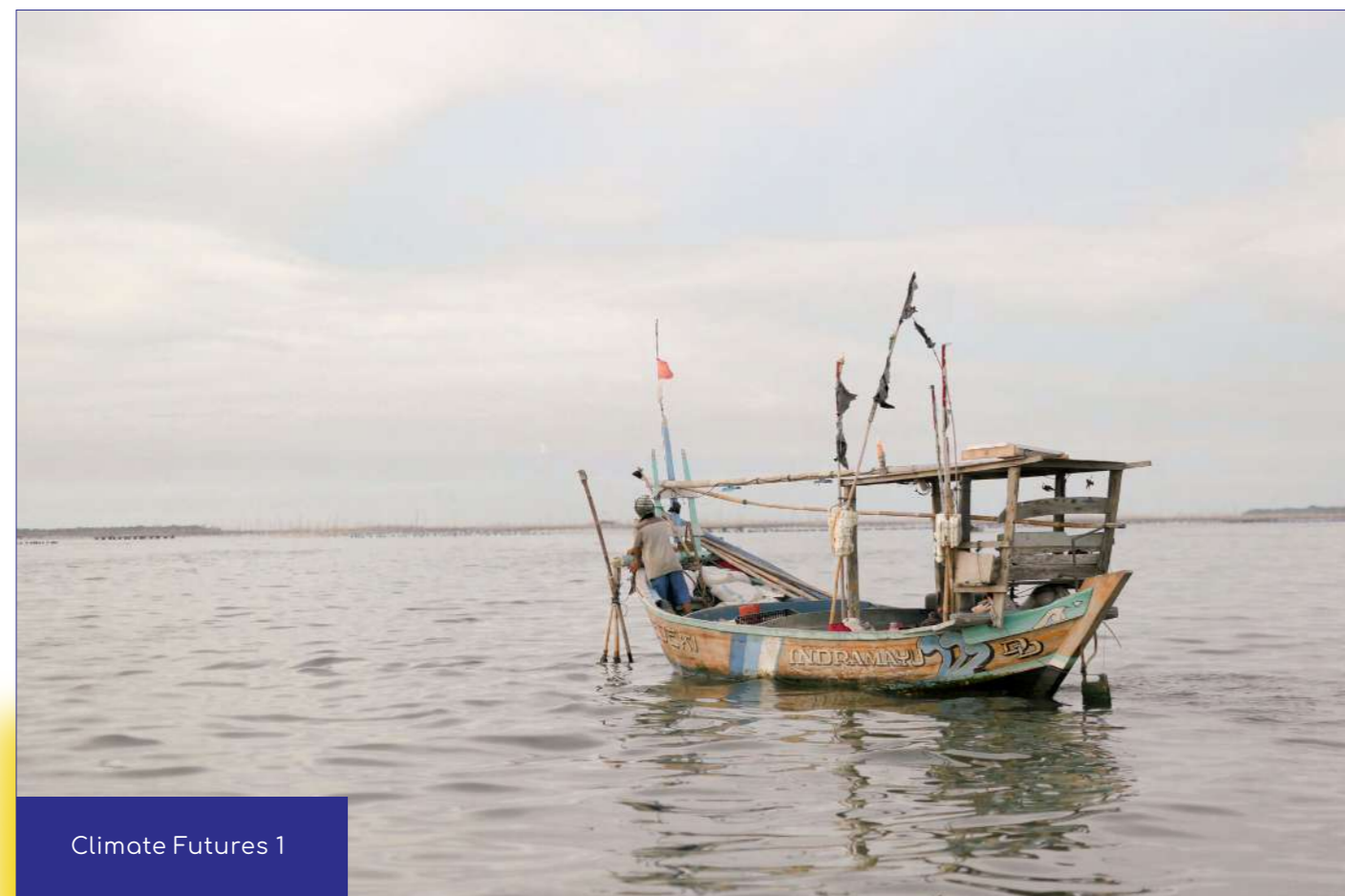
workers. The project stands as a testament to the power of partnership and innovation in navigating turbulent times and shaping a brighter future for ASEAN creative communities.

The partnership between the ASEAN Foundation and the regional arts sector echoes the historical underpinnings of multilateral collaboration, an especially important concern when considering the state of global affairs. Artists and artworks connect us in tangible and dynamic ways to the world, advancing diplomatic efforts, building deep connections, mutual understanding, and goodwill that builds the resilient communities underpinning our future prosperity. Cultural diplomacy initiatives are key for us to draw ourselves out of the isolation caused by disruptions, reconnect, and build a better future for all.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our stakeholders at the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Senior Officials on Culture and Arts (SOMCA) for their endorsement and guidance and special thanks to the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea for their support of KONNECT ASEAN.



# Impact

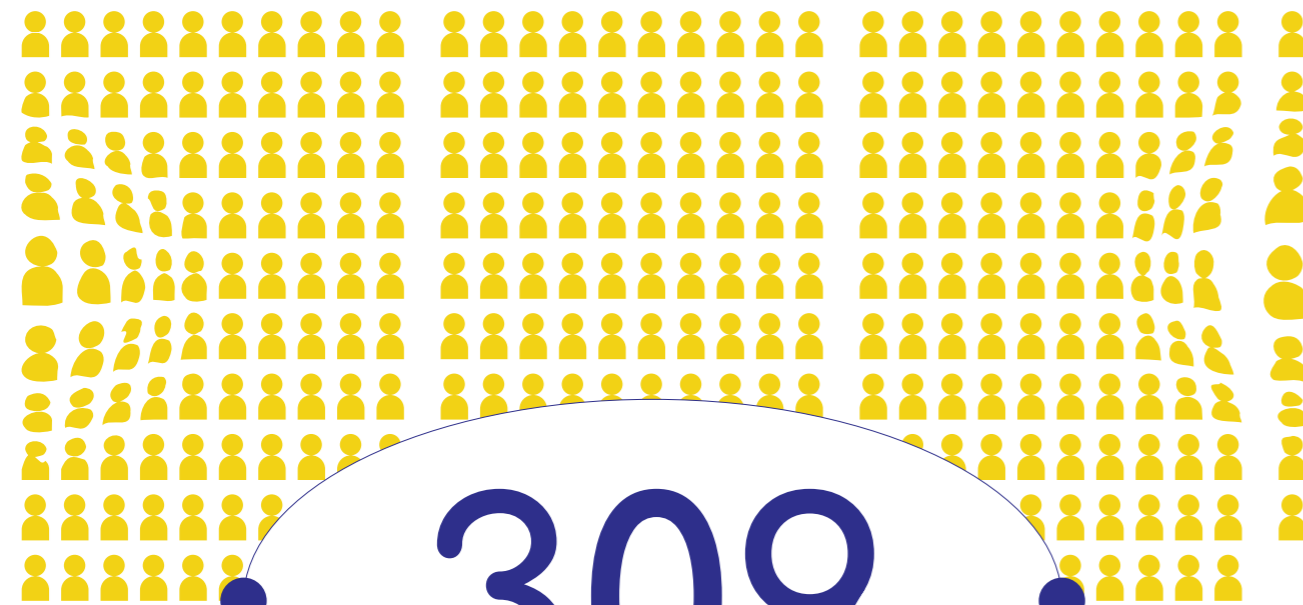


Climate Futures 1

24 over 4  
projects years

in 6 countries



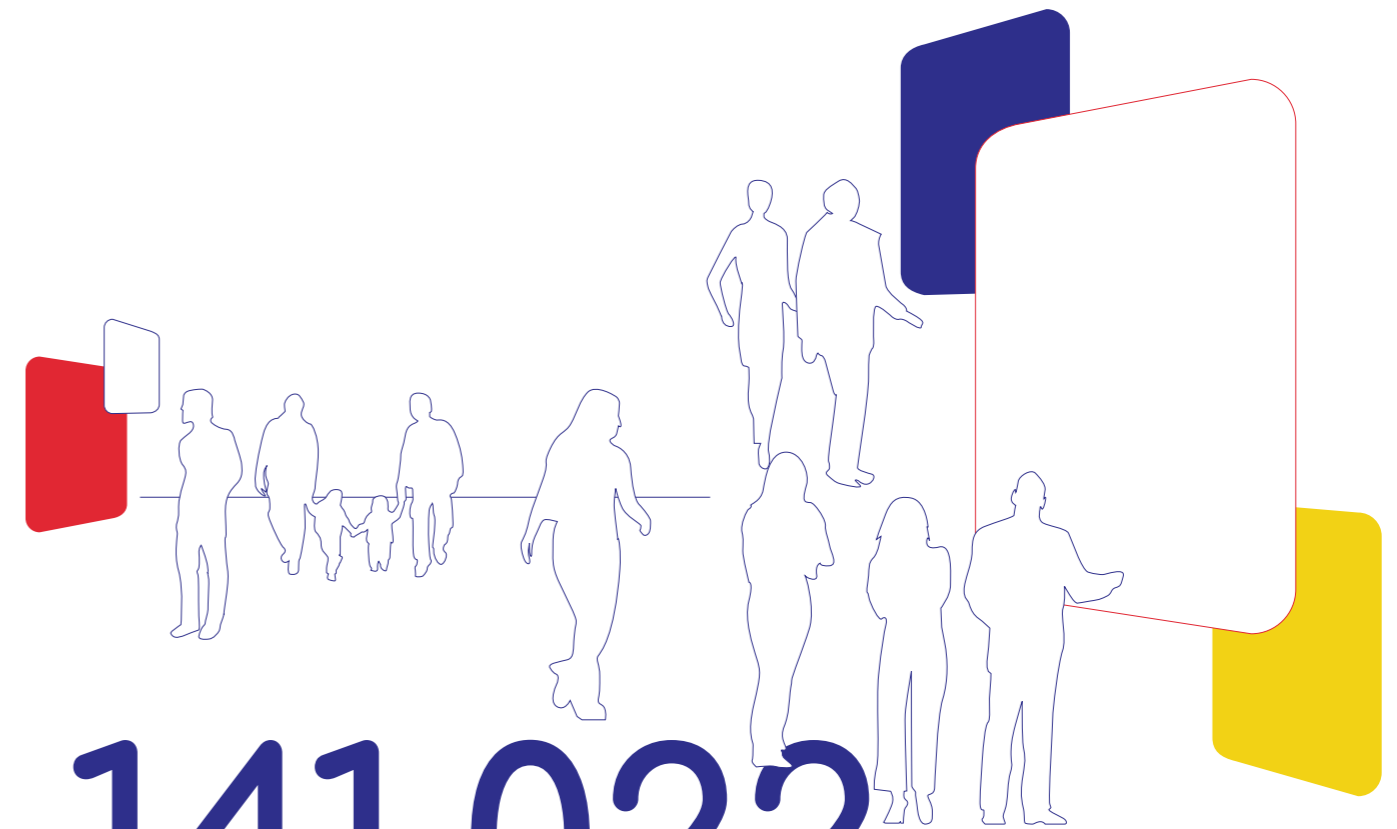


309

artists and art professionals  
from ASEAN and ROK

24

project  
partners



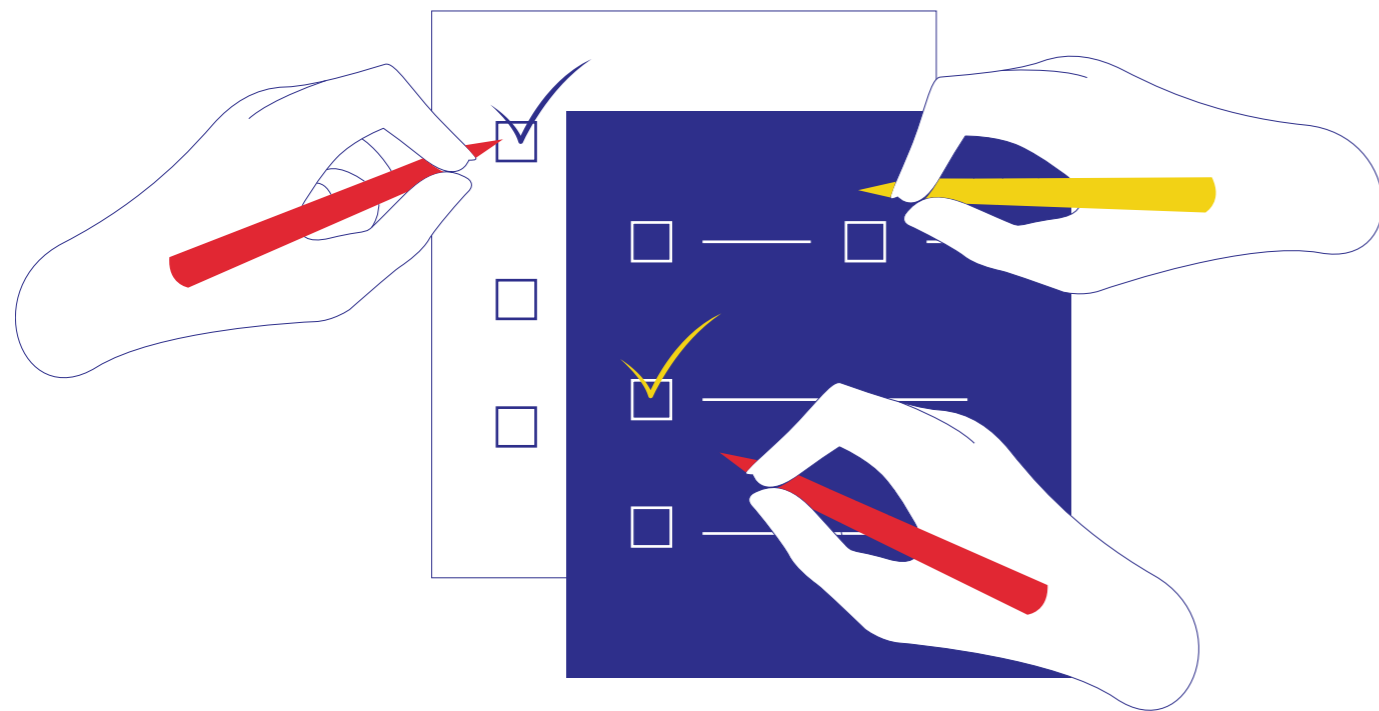
141,022

exhibition visitors



33,654

online attendees



"Change in knowledge, ideas and insight"

82.5%

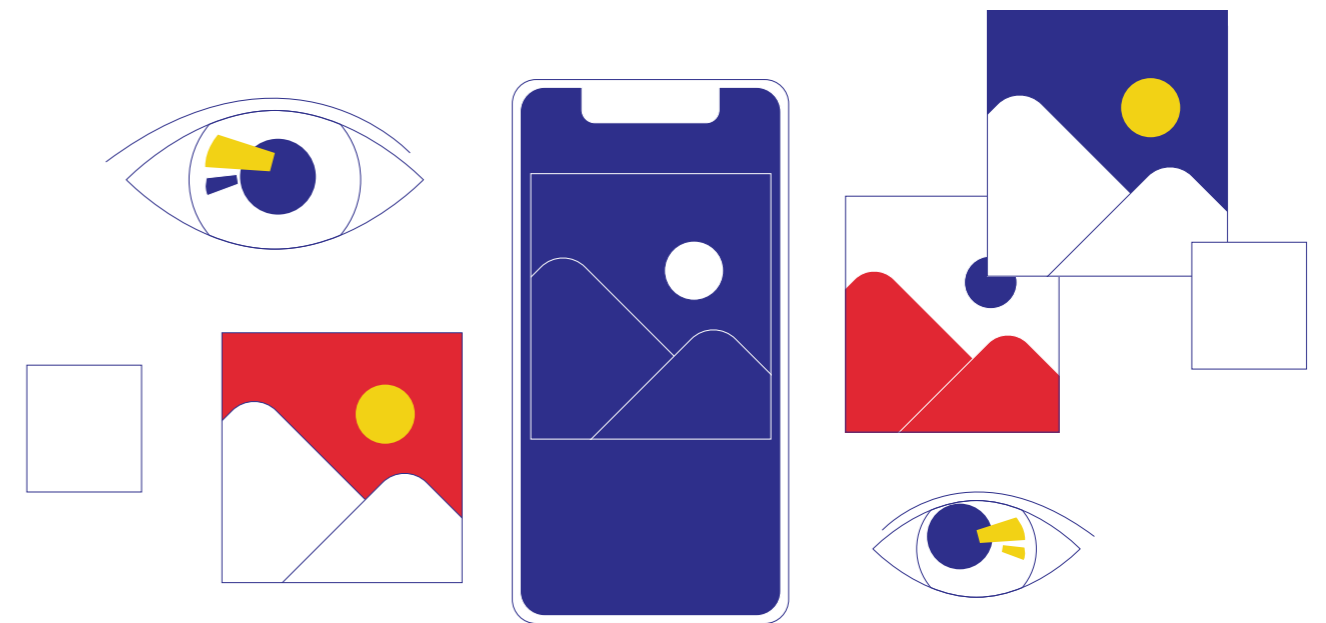
indicated as highest impact outcome for activities by beneficiaries in final survey

\*2,372 survey respondents overall



91 resources online

905 social media posts reaching 1,809,000 people

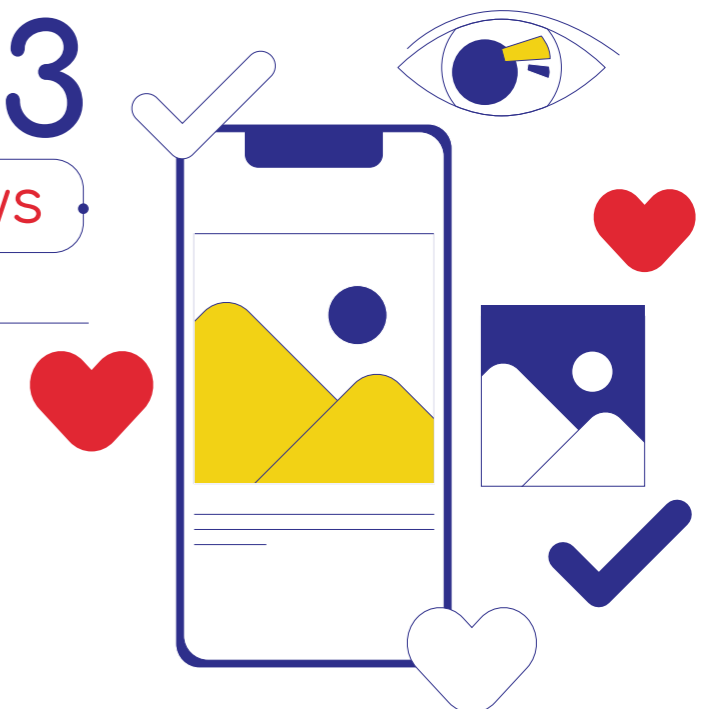


2,289,273

social media views

96,019

engagements



# Executive Summary

KONNECT ASEAN is a regional development project, under the auspices of the ASEAN Foundation, to strengthen the ASEAN Community by building more awareness of ASEAN identity through cultural exchange. The programme is supported by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund and operates within the context of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts and the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Plan of Action. This pilot programme was conducted from 2020 (largely during the pandemic) and ended its first phase in December 2023.

The programme focuses on contemporary visual arts and phase one was primarily delivered through five interconnected strands comprising of 24 activities including exhibitions, residencies, conferences, competitions, and publications, many of them delivered online during the pandemic. Its direct beneficiaries were artists and arts professionals from ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea, while its indirect beneficiaries were government representatives and the general public (online and offline). Delivered through a collaboration of stakeholders coming from government, civil society, and the private sector, these activities were vehicles to explore different social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues in the region and with Korea.



Chiang Mai Print Residency

## Key findings

- **Finding 1:**  
The programme fully contributed to the goals of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, the Strategic plan for Culture and Arts 2015-2026, and the ASEAN- Republic of Korea Action plan 2016-2020
- **Finding 2:**  
The programme generally overachieved its targeted outputs
- **Finding 3:**  
The programme contributed to a positive impact on almost all of the direct beneficiaries in relation to 3 key outcomes: "change in knowledge, ideas and insight", "professional practice capability", and "access to new networks"
- **Finding 4:**  
The programme contributed to a major increase in understanding about ASEAN
- **Finding 5:**  
80% of participants (in final survey) continued their relationships of which 16% continued collaborating

## Key success factors

Of strategic importance to the success of the programme was its unique value proposition as a multilateral programme solely funded by Asian governments and partners stimulating critical discourse and topics highly relevant to the shifting geopolitical context where ASEAN takes a prominent place. The flexibility, creativity, and openness to adjust and re-iterate this pilot programme during the pandemic through experimentation, hands-on delivery by the KONNECT ASEAN team, and the strong networking and partnership-building skills of the Project Director were crucial factors in its success. The multi-layered nature and interconnectedness of some projects, the diverse and transversal topics, and the innovative collective curatorship and residency approaches significantly impacted participants. The large number of diverse partners from government, the private sector and civil society with complementary strengths have contributed to the impact. Through these elements and the communication efforts, a large audience was reached beyond the arts, tapping into ASEAN Foundation's other networks and connecting with audiences beyond the Foundation's established youth base.



To A Faraway Friend

## Lessons learned

The impressive number of initiatives during the pandemic where activities needed to be changed, postponed, and re-created lead to a rich learning opportunity for future programmes. Organising less projects but more focused on what they ultimately need and can achieve within their limitations can create even more impact, essentially planning strategically with evaluation in mind. A critical assessment of the different models and approaches (e.g. residencies, education activities, exhibitions, online webinar series) allows for knowing better what works for who and when. Reducing complexity in partnership development with fewer partners over a longer period of time can leave more time to deal with these process related issues and find new partners in new countries. A programme

of this scale or less needs enough human and financial resources to be implemented. The absence of a dedicated communications person was especially a challenge in creating enough stories in relation to the number of projects. The programme applied a loose approach to equality, diversity and inclusion in relation to communicating how diversity is applied in selections. Given language is a sensitive area in intercultural programmes, lowering barriers by investing in translation or interpretation beyond online technology could make the programme more accessible for those whose English is not strong. Finally the programme did not explicitly include environmental conscious practices but explored them thematically in an arts context.



ASEAN On Paper

# Activity Summaries

## Exhibitions

### In Our Best Interests: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during a Cold War

SINGAPORE 21.01.21 - 31.03.21

ADM Gallery, Nanyang Technological University

Conceived by curators Kathleen Ditzig and Carlos Quijón Jr, the exhibition presented contemporary art works and archival material that nuance Afro-Asian legacies that grew out of the Cold War. Focusing on Southeast Asia as a geopoetic imagination alongside a global post-WWII anti-colonial resistance to racism, the exhibition traces a historical line between early regional imaginations such as Maphilindo to contemporary appropriations of Afro-Asian histories.

In parallel with a series of webinars that map out the histories of Afro-Southeast Asia affinities, In Our Best Interests questioned what a global solidarity can mean, thus, bringing into relief the geopolitical stakes of working for 'our' best interests in a failed "post-racial" contemporary and in the face of the global pandemic, COVID-19.



### Stories Across Rising Lands

Jakarta, INDONESIA 10.03.21 - 31.12.21

Museum MACAN

A survey exhibition of Southeast Asian contemporary art, co-curated by Asep Topan and Jeong Ok Jeon. It featured artists from across Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia, who work in a range of media, including video, installation, photography, painting, and video performance. 'Stories Across Rising Lands' focuses on everyday actions and the small daily narratives that help to define social and cultural connections to place. As a survey of art from Southeast Asia, the exhibition reflects the diversity and substantial geographic spread of the region by emphasising personal and fragmented connections to history and politics observed through the perspectives of artists.

The exhibition included eight artists and artistic collaborations. Born in and around the 1980s, these artists were connected by their generational experience of media technology; the impact of shifting economic and political discussions within their home territories; and approaches to different aesthetic formats that reflect the subtle movement between local, regional, and global contexts. The artists selected for the exhibition are widely respected and actively contribute to the various conversations of contemporary art in their home situations, whilst regularly participating in regional and global conversations. A virtual public programme accompanied the exhibition.

## Exhibitions

### Cast But One Shadow: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities

Manila, THE PHILIPPINES 22.09.21 - 15.02.22  
Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines

The Manila iteration of curators Carlos Quijon Jr. and Kathleen Ditzig's ongoing project reviewing global solidarities from a Southeast Asian positionality, which began in Singapore with the show "In Our Best Interests: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during a Cold War" (2021).

Expansive in its explorations, the presentation occupied all three floors of Vargas Museum, even stretching into its external spaces, and included new commissions, loans from the museum, diplomatic gifts from the Macapagal collections, and archival materials that trace the historical and imagined ties of Afro-Southeast Asia.



### Hacking Domesticity

Jogjakarta, INDONESIA  
05.10.21 - 14.11.21  
Biennale Jogja, Museum Dan  
Tanah Liat and Indieart House

The Korean Pavilion-KONNECT ASEAN exhibition invited seven female artists from Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Korea to respond to ideas of non-canonical histories and social movements, one of the underlying frameworks for the Biennale Jogja Equator series. Through the encounter of the curators Alia Swastika and Lim Jongeun, both agreed on the urgency to bring together female artists from both regions in order to learn from each others' histories and experiences in different cultural contexts.

The exhibition aimed to bridge relationships between female artists and activists in an effort to learn from each others' lived experiences. Thereupon, they might initiate a collective production of knowledge on women's life and experiences, particularly in the context of art. In addition to the exhibition, monthly discussions were held to build dialogues on different issues of contemporary art practices by employing gender and feminist perspectives.



### KONNECT ASEAN Contemporary Print Show: ARISE

Busan, KOREA 11.11.2021 - 13.02.2022  
ASEAN Culture House

The first exhibition co-curated and co-organised by the ASEAN Foundation and ASEAN Culture House. It assembled artworks by artists from ASEAN nations and Korea to explore the idea of collective identities through expressions of trauma, hope and irony. While most artworks on display focused primarily on printmaking practices steeped in the traditions of ASEAN nations and Korea, the exhibition also showcased contemporary artworks that re-imagine the print medium from new perspectives. Paper is associated with keeping historical records and memories, yet is also fragile and degrades over time. The artworks featured in Arise embraced a wide range of emotions coming from either the collective or personal memories of each artist. Artworks ranging from capturing the results of historical conflicts in the ASEAN region to images that enclose messages of peace and hope demonstrated that whereas history is recorded and remembered, trauma can fade away (like delicate paper) and be dealt with while moving forward.



## Exhibitions

### To A Faraway Friend: Beyond Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities

Busan, KOREA 02.07.22 - 02.10.22  
ASEAN Culture House

This exhibition's title takes inspiration from the 2021 novel 'Future Stroll Practice' by Park Solmoe. The book unfolds across the historic streets and quiet alleyways of Busan, tracing historic moments in the Republic of Korea's democratisation movement, which shares affinities with wider histories of independence movements in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Taking place at the ASEAN Culture House in Busan, the works presented in the show by 16 artists from the Republic of Korea and the nations of ASEAN reflected on the geopolitics of diplomatic encounters, moments of friction, and strategic alignments that have shaped, and continue to shape, geopolitical landscapes across the globe since the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War.



### Nothing Is Forever

SINGAPORE 29.07.22 - 23.03.23  
National Gallery Singapore

Tracing its history since the 19th century, the exhibition presented over 70 surprising works spanning religious, participative, installative, and even performative forms. The exhibition revealed the ever-changing nature of sculpture and how ideas around making and thinking about this medium have shifted. Nothing is Forever entrenched sculpture as an essential practice as it highlights how sculpture drove new ways of thinking about art in Singapore, and the lasting impacts it has made on our artistic landscape.

As part of the project, virtual in-situ visualisations of the ASEAN Sculpture Gardens and their public sculptures were commissioned and incorporated into an educational 360-experience with a graphical user interface, enabling members of the public to navigate and interact with the ASEAN Sculpture Gardens in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.



### Artwork Handover Ceremony and Exhibition

Jakarta, INDONESIA 16.10.23 - 20.10.23  
ASEAN Secretariat

KONNECT ASEAN organised a week-long handover exhibition in the ASEAN Secretariat lobby. The exhibition displayed 15 exceptional artworks that were produced from the residency programmes held in Chiang Mai and Jakarta.

The exhibition showcased ASEAN and Korea's cultural diversity as the works were the result of programmes that allowed artists to immerse themselves in local cultures, landscapes, and art. The pieces showcased Southeast Asian and Korean cultural connections.



### ASEAN On Paper

Busan, KOREA 21.11.23 - 18.2.24  
ASEAN Culture House

This exhibition marked the final collaborative project between the ASEAN Culture House under phase one of KONNECT ASEAN. It showcased the artistic works of 14 Korean and ASEAN artists who experimented with various printmaking techniques using paper as their primary medium during a residency. The one-month international residency program held in seven printmaking studios located in Chiang Mai, Thailand, provided a platform for connecting young artists from Korea and Southeast Asia, facilitating vibrant exchanges of ideas and skills.

In one section of the exhibition venue, eight short films created by ASEAN filmmakers with the support of the Busan Film Commission were screened with a focus on the themes of "paper" and "printmaking." Additionally, a documentary showcasing the process of the Chiang Mai Print Residency was also featured. Through this exhibition, visitors were able to experience the exchange of different traditions and cultures as they converged through the combination of "paper" as a primary medium and the technique of "printmaking," resulting in new creative endeavours.

## Conferences

### KONNECT ASEAN Creative Futures Dialogue

22.08.20

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacted ASEAN communities. Arts and creative industries suffered immensely as creative jobs in the broader economy became increasingly scarce.

Artists and arts professionals played a key role in rebuilding the world post-pandemic. Artists and creatives are essential as advocates for healing the broken bonds severed by border lockdowns, cultural divisions, and the retreat from globalism.

As a response to this new reality facing artists and creatives, three webinars highlighted priority areas of focus for young artists and creatives to remain resilient in their careers, namely digital acceleration, social impact, and ecological resilience.

### Afro-Southeast Asia: Pragmatics and Geopoetics of Art During a Cold War

SINGAPORE 17.04.21 – 12.06.21

Grey Projects

A webinar series that expanded the current discourses that shape the history and legacy of Afro-Asian solidarity by prospecting connections and imagined affinities between Africa and Southeast Asia as regional frameworks that emerged out of Cold War decolonisation projects.

By examining cultural and political projects of the period alongside contemporary art practices, Afro-Southeast Asia sought to chart out the intersections of the pragmatism guiding historical solidarities and the geopoetics of their persistent aspirations.

Organised in partnership with Grey Projects, the webinar was funded in part by the National Arts Council Singapore and was part of a larger research project on Afro-Southeast Asian histories and contemporary art supported by KONNECT ASEAN.

### KONNECT ASEAN Cultural Diplomacy Forum

29.04.21 – 02.12.21

In 2021 the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN Gallery, established inside the ASEC heritage building. The ASEAN Gallery houses the ASEAN Collection which comprises paintings, sculptures, and other objects that have been gifted to ASEAN over more than 40 years. This collection of diplomatic gifts provides a visual narrative of human civilisation's efforts to pay tribute to institutions that ensure the integrity of trade routes, political alliances, and social customs; a display of regional solidarity through objects.

To commemorate the anniversary, KONNECT ASEAN convened three webinars on various aspects of Cultural Diplomacy. How has ASEAN affected the development of artistic/creative practice in Southeast Asia? What challenges have the arts/creative professionals faced while navigating diplomatic norms and relations? What is the relevance of cultural diplomacy to contemporary artistic practice?

### Res Artis Conference 2021: Defining the Next Decade

Bangkok, THAILAND 08.09.21 – 17.09.21

SAC Gallery

Res Artis hosted their first fully digital conference hosted by SAC Gallery Bangkok supported by ASEF culture360, KONNECT ASEAN | ASEAN Foundation; Goethe-Institut Thailand; Japan Foundation Bangkok, and Casa Asia. Titled Defining the Next Decade, the conference examined the tremendous impact of COVID-19 and the future of international arts residencies. The conference presented the results of Res Artis survey data and examined new models for arts residencies that evolved in response to the pandemic. This included the rise in local exchanges, virtual residencies, and digital residency activity while physical exchange was paused. Taking place in diverse time zones spread over two weeks in September 2021, the virtual nature of the conference reflected new digital residency activities emerging in the field and offered greater accessibility for attendees and contributors alike. Participants were engaged in workshops and presentations with a particular focus on those based in Southeast Asia and Thailand. The conference included opportunities for small group interactions and artistic offerings, as well as Bangkok gallery and residency tours.

## Conferences

### Third Date

28.03.22

A multidisciplinary public programme about the disenchantments of love, beauty, bodies, gender, and subjectivity. The programme asks: Who gets to be their authentic, true self? And, more importantly, how do those for whom this universal promise remains unfulfilled go about creating and manifesting the most real versions of themselves? This program featured a creative essay by Wong Binghao that elaborates on their new areas of research, and an integral visual identity designed by Studio Vanessa Ban that was used for all programme publicity material and on the Zoom event itself.

### Climate Futures #1: Cultures, Climate Crisis and Disappearing Ecologies

Jakarta, INDONESIA 01.12.22 – 03.12.22

To better understand the decline in cultural and ecological diversity in the region, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore and KONNECT ASEAN proposed to look at how the endangerment of traditional cultures and knowledges in the face of ecological challenges affects the region of Southeast Asia. The three-day summit aimed to address the various relationships and links to the environment, ecologies, and biodiversity.

An holistic approach was taken to stimulate a debate between artists, designers, architects, scientists, environmentalists, as well as local voices and policymakers. The conference sought to reach out to a wider public including younger scholars and practitioners, as well as community leaders and policymakers from the ASEAN region.



### Bumantara: Southeast Asian Futurism in Art and Design

Bali, Majalengka, and Bandung, INDONESIA 13.08.23 – 20.08.23

External Assessment Summer School (EASS)

In 1978, Sutan Takdir Alisjahbana (STA), the prominent Indonesian poet, linguist, philosopher and cultural intellectual convened the 'International Conference on Art and the Future'. The conference emphasised art as being able to highlight and provide solutions for what was deemed the "immense" problems of the future. In particular, artists were seen as playing an important role in defining the culture and values of a society transformed by technological development. By the 1980s, STA under the auspices of ASEAN would organise regional gatherings that would extend his demands upon art to that of a regional identity for Southeast Asia- specifically to the concept of "Bumantara" or the Lands in Between, in which Southeast Asia was conceived as a civilizational crossroad that was important to imagining the future of the world and addressing it's complex problems.

Inspired and guided by this history, the EASS programme resurrected this historical and yet very contemporary imagination of art, architecture, and design being necessary to address the most pressing issues that define the future of the world we live in.

## Conferences

### Climate Futures #2: Belonging and Shared Responsibilities

Siem Reap, CAMBODIA 26.10.23 – 28.10.23

The three-day summit was the second convening of the Climate Futures series conceived by NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, in partnership with KONNECT ASEAN. Following the success of its first iteration, this edition brought together 21 artists, curators, scientists, architects, NGO workers, and policy makers to expand discussions on the decline of cultural and ecological diversity in the region. This continued to map how the climate crisis informs our contemporary world, and how diverse cultures can adjust or adapt without losing a sense of identity. In the presence of ASEAN policy makers, participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Korea, and Thailand examined how the endangerment of traditional cultures and knowledges affects the region. Following the flow of climate related issues through regional waterways and straits, from the Mekong River and Delta to the Straits of Malacca, the significance of environmental features in the shared histories of the region contributed to alternative understandings of regional connectivity.



### ASEAN-ROK Visual Arts Policy Discussion and Workshop

Jakarta, INDONESIA 09.11.23 – 10.11.23

ASEAN Secretariat

The final activity implemented for phase one of KONNECT ASEAN, the ASEAN Foundation facilitated knowledge-sharing, exchange of experiences, and promotion of best practices in regards to ASEAN-ROK arts collaboration. Exploration of major issues and current trends to provide fresh perspectives on the outlook of the ASEAN visual arts sector was used to inform policy decisions to the ROK government. The ASEAN Foundation invited subject matter experts and thought leaders from the ASEAN visual arts sector to participate.

The outcomes of the discussions and workshop served as recommendations for the ASEAN Foundation to enhance future iterations of KONNECT ASEAN.

## Residencies



### KONNECT ASEAN Chiang Mai Print Residency

Chiang Mai, THAILAND 01.07.23 – 29.07.23

C.A.P. Studio, CHA MAI Home Studio, Detales Studio, Halo Printmaking Studio, JOJO KOBE Art Gallery, MEZZ PRESS, and Prawin Print Studio

10 Southeast Asian artists and five Korean artists took part in a print residency in northern Thailand's Chiang Mai.

The month long activity provided access to print studios, public programmes and other promotional activities for print artists while they worked in the city. The residency promoted collaboration and networking amongst the artists and 10 artists whom worked in an open studio format.

Participating artists' work were exhibited in Chiang Mai Arts and Cultural Centre, ASEAN Cultural Center (Bangkok), the ASEAN Secretariat (Jakarta), and ASEAN Culture House (Busan).

### Virtual360 KONNECT | Emerging Arts Leaders Residencies

05.08.20 – 31.12.20

Asia-Europe Foundation through its arts website culture360.ASEF.org with the support of KONNECT ASEAN, launched a virtual residency series and online capacity building programme. The activity was designed to support cultural exchange amongst emerging artists and cultural practitioners across all arts disciplines from the ASEAN region and the Republic of Korea. Each residency paired 2 participants (one ASEAN national and one Republic of Korea national) who collaborated online for a period of one month. The results were jointly written articles and one podcast or video interview published on culture360.ASEF.org.

### KONNECT ASEAN Artists Residency Programme (KAARP)

Jakarta, INDONESIA 12.07.23 – 09.08.23

Gudskul Ekosistem

KONNECT ASEAN supported two artists, Catherine Oslo from Indonesia and Eunji Cho from Korea, to take part in a collaborative residency in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The residency was managed by Gudskul Ekosistem. This programme aimed to provide opportunities for the ASEAN-Korea artists community by providing studio space, exhibition space, public programmes, and other promotional activities for the artists while they worked in Jakarta.

Catherine and Eunji produced one collaborative artwork over a one-month period to be donated to the permanent ASEAN Collection. This programme explored ASEAN-Korea identities to deepen mutual understanding across diverse global cultures.



## Competitions

### ASEAN Day Short Video Contest

22.08.20

During the pandemic, the ASEAN Foundation launched an open call for youth across ASEAN Member States to share videos on their social media accounts with the theme "Celebrating ASEAN Day 2020: how arts and culture unites us during the pandemic".

### Fresh Take

01.06.21

In April 2021, Art & Market announced its second iteration of the 'Fresh Take' writing contest. This edition was held in partnership with KONNECT ASEAN, in search of new perspectives on the Southeast Asian and/or Korean art scenes.

## Publication

### August Gathering

08.08.21

In 2001, the late Ambassador Rodolfo C. Severino Jr., the 10th Secretary-General of ASEAN, proposed to dedicate a space diplomatic gifts to the ASEAN Secretariat as testimony to the enduring friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and its partners from around the world. A wealth of paintings, sculptures and art objects have been maintained and displayed since the ASEAN Gallery was inaugurated on 8th August, coinciding with ASEAN Day, that year.

The August Gathering book commemorated the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN Gallery. The milestone publication highlighted the ASEAN Gallery's role in documenting key moments over the years. To celebrate ASEAN's golden jubilee anniversary in 2017, the gallery held an inaugural exhibition entitled *Assemblage: Reflections on ASEAN* where the audience were invited to look back on the cultural diversity that has embodied and united the region for half a century.

ASEAN is deeply rooted in the art of giving, ranging from artworks to resources. August Gathering gave readers a renewed appreciation of ASEAN culture, while serving as an important resource to better appreciate our region's diversity as well as its rich arts and cultural heritage.



# Recommendations

## STRATEGY

### Start:

Frame the work in terms of cultural relations as the programme is based on values of mutuality in ASEAN and between ASEAN and ROK and involvement of both state and non-state actors

### Change:

Redefine the overall objective as "strengthen the ASEAN community by building more awareness of ASEAN through cultural exchange in ASEAN and ROK" to reflect and apply the inclusion of ROK consistently across the programme

### Start:

Develop a programme structure that reflects strategic areas of impact with a limited number of projects

### Continue:

Keep target group of 'youth' (emerging artists, curators, arts professionals and others) broad enough (18-40) to include intergenerational learning

### Start:

Develop partnerships in countries that have not hosted any KONNECT ASEAN programme, prioritise projects outside of the capital cities and include project components in ROK or with stronger ROK presence

## DESIGN

### Continue:

Build a programme with a balance between reach and depth, discourse and production and where the ASEAN Foundation can make a unique difference

### Continue:

Build on the topics that have been part of the pilot programme (Gender, Climate Change, Decolonisation, etc.) and prioritise projects that generate new knowledge about ASEAN and ROK cultures

### Continue:

Build on the best practice of the pilot programme with limited projects that are multi-country and multi-year with a long term strategy, multi-layered models and different engagement mechanisms (prioritising residencies), with critical discourse pushing the boundaries of stakeholders, collective approaches to curatorship and residencies, good use of digital technology for public and educational outreach and sustainability well-imbedded at different levels

### Stop:

Terminate any project that is not responding to overall programme criteria and is one off

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Continue:

Keep commissioning new art works to support launching the careers of emerging artists

### Continue:

Involve KONNECT ASEAN alumni in new projects

### Start:

Set up alumni grants for key projects initiated in the pilot phase to strategically support continued connection

### Start:

Support legacy projects that kickstart networks (e.g. research network), development of archives (eg an archive on women artists of the region), catalogues that have lasting impact

### Start:

Have an environmental policy for all programmes

### Start:

Set up an alumni network platform and enable learning across different programmes

## RESOURCES

### Start:

Have resources for dedicated communication staff for strategic communication and increased visibility

### Continue:

Support partners in a project who are independent agents/individuals in a fair way, as they have no institution to fall back on

### Start:

Provide enough resources for follow up projects and alumni grants and for supporting Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives

## PARTNERSHIP

### Continue:

Build on current partnerships and develop long term agreements

### Change:

Involve partnerships in co-creation and co-sharing budgets or value in-kind and have clear roles and responsibilities

## EDI Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

### Start:

Develop an EDI policy to assure diversity of voices are represented at all levels of the programme and inclusive access is provided in a consistent way:

- Online access (translation, sign language, subtitles)
- Applications (plain English, sign language, different formats- eg video, local language)
- Design of programme (physical access, safe spaces for sharing, investment in access to non-English speakers)

### Start:

Be open or find ways to include Non-ASEAN/ROK passport holders who have roots in ASEAN/ROK and do relevant work in the region

### Continue:

Engage with new people and be transparent on who gets further opportunities via ASEAN Foundation

