



CASA ASIA

6th edition

EAST-WEST DIALOGUE

Migration and Diversity: New Challenges and Opportunities

Barcelona, 10-11 November 2009

www.casaasia.es/dialogo

The 6th edition of the East-West Dialogue focuses on “**Migration and Diversity: New Challenges and Opportunities**”. Along with globalization, transnational migration is one of the key characteristics of our time and it has attracted growing concern and increased political attention both at international and local levels. The rising scale of international migration has increased social diversity in societies and communities in many parts of the world. The debates will focus around issues such as ‘Leadership for Dialogue, Diversity and Social Cohesion’, ‘Common Values Education’, ‘Gender and Migration’, ‘Migrations and Human Rights’, ‘Challenges and Opportunities for the Cities’ and ‘Perspectives for the Future’.

One of the priorities of the East-West Dialogue is to integrate the youth perspective and involve young people from the East and the West in the debates with the experts. Every year, the East-West Dialogue also includes the gender perspective as a constant theme for the debates and reflections. For this sixth edition, we encourage especially local Asian migrant communities to participate actively.

This sixth edition of the East-West Dialogue is organized with the collaboration of prestigious institutions such as UNESCO, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the United Nations Association for Spain (ANUE), the City Council of Madrid and the Club of Madrid, with the support of the Barcelona City Council and with the sponsorship of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Since 2004, the East-West Dialogue annually brings together a group of policy makers, including former heads of state and government, pre-eminent scholars, representatives of key non-governmental organizations and of the civil society from the East and the West working together for a common cause, to examine today's most pressing global, regional and local challenges, exchange best practices and engage themselves to support action-oriented policies. It aims at stimulating reflexions and constructive debate while promoting mutual understanding, unity in diversity and common actions towards sustainable development and world peace and it intends to build bridges for cooperation through dialogue. One of the objectives of the East-West Dialogue is to give Asia a stronger voice in cross-cultural dialogues which take place in the West, in the initiatives in place and in the challenges at stake. The East-West Dialogue is strongly committed to the Millennium Development Goals and the Alliance of Civilizations of the United Nations and the Spanish Action Plan.

The East-West Dialogue continues with its labour in favour of dialogue as a prerequisite tool for understanding between cultures, peaceful coexistence and sustainable development.





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TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009

Venue: Saló de Cent, Barcelona City Hall, Pl. Sant Jaume 1, Barcelona

4.30 pm REGISTRATION

5 pm INAUGURATION

- **Jordi Hereu**, Mayor of Barcelona
- **Jesús Sanz**, Director General of Casa Asia
- **Celestino Corbacho**, Minister of Employment and Immigration *
- **José Montilla**, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia*
- Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

6 pm PLENARY SESSION: LEADERSHIP FOR DIALOGUE, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

This plenary session will address the challenges for the leaders of today and tomorrow with regards to the rising scale of transnational migration and how to manage increasingly diverse populations and communities in terms of its religion, beliefs, education and cultural differences. The objective is to promote commitment for dialogue, shared values and social cohesion. Diversity is a fact of life. Indeed, ninety percent of the world's countries have at least a ten percent minority population. As communities become ever more intertwined and intercultural, leaders face the challenge of building and maintaining shared societies in their communities and countries. Others hold on to power by purposefully exploiting fears and prejudice among their constituents of those who are 'different.'

Some leaders embrace and celebrate diversity in their midst, opting to see potential in the differences, while recognizing its economic, social and political potential. By actively promoting policies and practices that create opportunity — and bring people together around common values, projects and goals — these leaders are reducing the hate, hurt and humiliation that undermine human dignity. Societies are most likely to be peaceful, democratic and prosperous when leaders and citizens recognize and celebrate the value of diversity and actively build a shared society safe for difference. *(With the collaboration of the Club of Madrid)*

Chaired by: Nasim Zehra, Director of Current Affairs, *Dunya News TV Channel*, Pakistan

- **Omar Abdullah**, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, India
- **Li Zhaoxing**, Chairman of the National People's Congress's Foreign Affairs Committee, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), PRC
- **Jennifer Mary Shipley**, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Co-Chair of the *Shared Societies Project* of the Club of Madrid
- **Chandrika Kumaratunga**, Former President of Sri Lanka and member of the Club of Madrid
- **Sherry Rehman**, Member of the National Assembly and Former Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Pakistan

7.30 pm DEBATE

8 pm END OF THE PLENARY SESSION





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WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009,

Auditorio Tagore, Casa Asia, Av. Diagonal 373, Barcelona

9.30 am RETHINKING DIFFERENCES: ACTIONS AND IDEAS FOR COMMON VALUES EDUCATION

The existence of common ethical values that can be shared by all faiths and spiritual systems could be a compelling response to the diversity challenge. With the global movement of people and information, societies across Asia and Europe are fast becoming multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith environments, where the rise of exclusivist or even violent extremist ideologies threatens social cohesion and peaceful co-existence. Can a set of common values bind people from different religions and cultures in a way that could resolve, or offer more enlightened ways of interpreting and reacting to the problematic differences? What are the different approaches to common values education today, and how could they apply in a cross-regional, Asia-Europe context? This session will present the findings of a two-day dialogue between common values practitioners on the existing education programmes and other actions in the field that have the concept of common or shared values at their core. *(With the collaboration of the Asia-Europe Foundation, ASEF)*

Chaired by: Sol Iglesias, Acting Director, Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

- **Thomas Uthup**, Research Manager, United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, India
- **Linda King**, Chief of Section for the Promotion of Rights and Values in Education of UNESCO
- **Abdurrahman Mas'ud**, Head of Centre for Religious Research and Development, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Indonesia
- **Nedžad Grabus**, Grand Mufti of the Islamic Community, Republic of Slovenia
- **Ricard Zapata-Barrero**, professor, coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration (GRITIM) and director of the Master of Immigration of the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), Spain

11.00 am DEBATE

11.30 am COFFEE BREAK





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12.00 am GENDER AND MIGRATION

International migration has become an established feature of contemporary social and economic life globally. It has both positive and negative features and opportunities for the individuals and countries involved. One specific aspect of international migration is that it is a highly gendered phenomenon. Although migration was regarded as a male phenomenon until recently (mid-1980s), it is now well documented that women account for almost half of the migrant population globally. This session on gender and migration will take a broad approach to migration and will look at both forced (refugees, displaced persons and trafficked people) and voluntary (out-of-choice from the perspective of the migrant including economic choice) migration. As the focus will be more on the “positive” opportunities of migration, panelists will be asked to explore the gains at the individual level – ranging from income, autonomy, self-confidence and social status as well as the contributions to the sending and receiving countries – for the former, remittances and for the latter the contribution of labor, skills and knowledge. Another important aspect that this session will explore is the contribution of migration to a better understanding among cultures – both for the receiving and sending cultures. *(With the collaboration of UNESCO)*

Chaired by: Saniye Gülser Corat, Director, Division for Gender Equality, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO

- **Tasneem Siddiqui**, Chair of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Xavier Prats Monné**, Director of Employment Policy, Lisbon Strategy and International Relations, European Commission
- **Maruja Asis**, sociologist, Director of Research and Publications of the Scalabrini Migration Center, The Philippines
- **Dono Abdurazakova**, Consultant and Former UNDP Regional Gender adviser for Eastern Europe and CIS, Uzbekistan

1.30 pm DEBATE

2.00 pm BREAK





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4 pm THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN THE EAST-WEST DIALOGUE—MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

50 young students from the East and the West who participated to the Model United Nations will present the reflections and conclusions of two-day closed-door working sessions previously held at Casa Asia before the East-West Dialogue. The themes which will be discussed are "Migration and Human Rights". In many countries, immigration is a critical issue in what concerns to international relations, economy and social status. Over recent years, new issues associated with the impact of migration have reached to fill up newspapers and latest news around the world: human trafficking, serious crime, remittances, migrants' impact on employment, contentious debates about multiculturalism, etc. These issues are in the media, in debates and in the political agenda. But, unfortunately, human rights extent or perspective in global terms is far more difficult to be extended to migrants and migration. And it has to be taken into account. *(With the collaboration of the United Nations Association of Spain, ANUE)*

Chaired by: Raül Jiménez, Director of Youth and Communication, United Nations Association of Spain (UNA Spain)

4.30 pm IMMIGRATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CITIES

Cities receive the majority of flows of international migrants. The objectives of this roundtable are to analyze and exchange best practices regarding immigrants' integration and participative politics and the construction of a plural and prosperous society in a globalized world. Human rights, economics, diversity, integration policies are themes which are addressed in this session. How do immigrants shape the new landscape of the cities? How do cities build on an increasing diverse society? How do they answer to the phenomenon of globalization? How do they define an international strategy? *(With the collaboration of the Madrid City Council)*

Chaired by: Ignacio Niño Pérez, CEO, Office of International Strategy and Action "Madrid Global", Madrid City Council

- **Toronto: Ratna Omidvar**, President of the Maytree Foundation
- **Seoul: Park Hwa-Seo**, Head of the Department of Migration Studies, Myongji University, Advisor of the Korea Local Authorities Foundation for International Relations
- **Barcelona: Daniel de Torres**, Mayor's Office Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, Barcelona City Council
- **Sao Paulo: Daniele Roldán**, Coordinator of Marketing, Secretariat for International Relations, City Council of Sao Paulo

6.00 pm DEBATE

6.30 pm COFFEE BREAK





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6.45 pm CONFERENCE REPORT OF THE EAST-WEST DIALOGUE

- **Manuel Montobbio**, Ambassador of Spain in Albania and Rapporteur of the East-West Dialogue

7.10 pm CLOSING SESSION: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Representatives from the Asian Communities in Spain

- Pakistan: **Raja Shafiq**, Director of Radio Pakcelona and President of the Cultural Association Pakcelona
- China
- Filipinas
- Bangladesh
- India

8.00 pm END OF THE EAST-WEST DIALOGUE

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