Report


The Asia-Europe Institute was awarded the prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE) award in September 2017. Through the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence award, the Asia-Europe Institute has not only widened and deepened the focus on ASEAN-EU Studies but has also disseminated information about EU in Malaysia and elsewhere in the ASEAN region. The JMCoE Activities for the second year (2018-2019), focussed on the political and security dimensions of regional and inter-regional cooperation. Key features of the second year include:

Ambassador Lecture Series – “The EU and ASEAN: Faced with the Choice of Democracy or Populism” a lecture by H.E. Frédéric Laplanche, the Ambassador of France

The Asia-Europe Institute hosted H.E. Frédéric Laplanche, the Ambassador of France to Malaysia on January 30, 2019 for the Ambassador’s lecture. H.E. Laplanche gave a talk on the topic “The EU and ASEAN: Faced with the Choice of Democracy or Populism” where he discussed the ongoing political changes happening not only in Europe but in other parts of the world. Ambassador (R) Late Dato’ M. Redzuan Kushairi moderated the event and Associate Professor Dr Sameer Kumar from the AEI was the discussant for the session. Attending guests included the Ambassador of Egypt, Ambassador of Switzerland, the Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina and the High Commissioner of Australia.

Ambassador Lecture Series – “Direct Democracy: The Swiss Experience” a lecture by H.E. Michael Winzap, Ambassador of Switzerland

On April 17, 2019, the Asia-Europe Institute hosted the Ambassador Lecture Series featuring H.E. Michael Winzap, Ambassador of Switzerland to Malaysia. The lecture, titled 'Direct Democracy: The Swiss Experience', was moderated by Mr. Wan Saiful Wan Jan, founder and former CEO of IDEAS & Chairman of PTPTN. H.E. Winzap provided a historical overview and explained what is entailed in Switzerland’s direct democracy, noting the much more frequent referendums held compared to other European countries. The session was followed by an engaging Q&A and discussion between the Ambassador and lecture attendees.

Jean Monnet Special Public Lecture by Dr. Balázs Orbán, Deputy Minister of the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office

Dr. Balázs Orbán, Deputy Minister of the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office visited the Asia-Europe Institute on June 20, 2019. During his visit, he delivered a special lecture on “Hungary and the Central European Countries: Perspectives and Challenges”. The session was moderated by Dr. Rahul Mishra, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, International Master’s in European Regional Integration (IMERI). The event was attended by His Excellency Ambassador Attila Káli along with other members of the Hungarian mission. Delegates from other embassies in Malaysia were also present.
Ambassador Lecture Series – “World War II: The Polish Experience” a lecture by H.E. Professor Krzysztof Dębnicki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Malaysia

On November 15, 2019 His Excellency Professor Krzysztof Dębnicki, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Malaysia gave a lecture on the Polish experiences of the Second World War. The lecture was held in conjunction with a two-week exhibition on “Polish Citizens during WWII” jointly organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to Malaysia and the Asia-Europe Institute. During the event Dr. Jatswan Singh, the Acting Executive Director, AEI, gave the opening remarks. The session was moderated by Dr. Rahul Mishra, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, IMERI. The event was attended by embassy representatives from various countries, government officials, academics, representatives from the media, representatives from NGOs and students.

First Europe Day High School Outreach - Sekolah Berasrama Penuh Integras Gombak

On May 8, 2018, as part its Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence activities, AEI organized the first High School Outreach programme of the year in conjunction with Europe Day. The event was held on May 8, 2019 at Sekolah Berasrama Penuh Integras Gombak (SBPI Gombak) from 3.30 to 5.30 pm. A total of 105 students participated in the day’s event. Dr Rahul Mishra, programme coordinator for the International Masters in European Regionalism at the AEI and Mrs See Yuen Beh, CEO of CirQuLer Global Centre and member of the Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Alliance spoke to 150 Form 5 students about the EU and studying in Europe in order to broaden their knowledge on possible future study paths. Dr. Nurliana Kamaruddin was also present during the event.

Second Europe Day High School Outreach- Methodist Boys’ Secondary School Kuala Lumpur

The Asia-Europe Institute organised the second Europe Day High School Outreach at the Methodist Boys’ Secondary School Kuala Lumpur (MBSSKL) on 10 July 2019. The outreach was organized with support from the Embassy of Hungary and the Embassy of Ireland. His Excellency Attila Káli, Ambassador of Hungary to Malaysia and Dr. Titanilla Tóth Deputy Head of Mission from the Embassy of Hungary in Kuala Lumpur, Senior Education Consultant – ASEAN Education in Ireland, Mr Cormac Kavanagh, the school’s board of directors and Dr. Nurliana Kamaruddin were present in the event. Dr. Rahul Mishra, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, IMERI gave the closing remarks on behalf of Professor Azirah Hashim, Executive Director of AEI.

The EU-ASEAN Dialogue

The second JMCoE annual conference, titled “Europe in the New Asia: New Anxieties, New Constructs” was held on August 1-2, 2019. It brought together eminent thinkers and academics from more than 10 countries across Asia and Europe to discuss a wide range of topics such as western and non-western approaches to international relations, European and Asian security architectures, and the Belt and Road and Indo-Pacific Initiatives. Key participants in the conference included YBhg Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim-the Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya, YB Senator Liew Chin Tong-the Deputy Defence Minister of Malaysia, Professor Amitav Acharya, Ambassador Makio Miyagawa, Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Mr Enrico Letta-former Prime Minister of Italy, Dr Farish A. Noor from RSIS, Singapore, Prof.
S.D. Muni—former special envoy of the Government of India and emeritus professor, JNU, and YM Raja Dato’ Nushirwan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia’s Ambassador to China.

**Comparative Regionalism Workshop 2019**

On April 24 and 25, 2019, the institute organized a two-day workshop on Comparative Regionalism in collaboration with the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism University of Malaya. The session was conducted by Dr. Paul Gillespie, Senior Research Fellow at University College Dublin and co-facilitated by Dr. Rahul Mishra, AEI. The workshop’s objective was to expose participants to the field of research on comparative regionalism as well as introduce participants to the use of comparative regionalism and the theory for comparative research. For this two day workshop, the organizers hoped to create an environment where all the students, researchers and participants are able to collaborate for a mock research design. At the end of the workshop there were group presentations of the proposed or mock research project.

**Seminar on Western and non-Western International Relations**

A range of Kuala Lumpur-based specialists on international relations-security and foreign policy experts, historians, sociologists, and public policy specialists - gathered at the Asia-Europe Institute on 11 July, 2019 to discuss recent literature on non-Western approaches to international relations. The event was a part of the year two of JMCoE activities. The seminar sought to identify key features of the Western approach. It was noted first that Western thinking has changed over the centuries, and shares characteristics with different forms of non-Western international relations thought.