

# EURASIA FOUNDATION (FROM ASIA)

## PRESENTATION

### 1. BASIC VISION<sup>1</sup>

The aim of our foundation is to contribute to the elimination of all conflicts in the world and the creation of a harmonious and peaceful society for everyone on earth.

Over the past decade, the activities of our Foundation, which began with a focus on the Asian region, have gone beyond mere regional boundaries, and we have helped to deepen discussions about community in many different forms. In addition, this era is pursuing expectations for a new form and role of a community beyond existing nations, ethnicities, and ideologies.

In the world at present, there are various confrontations, conflicts, and strife, related to politics, economics, ethnicities, religion, culture, the environment, and so on. The ability to eliminate these numerous conflicts in the future rests on the shoulders of the youth. Our hope is that all students are able to learn about world history, culture, religions, politics, economics, technology, and art, as well as the importance of diverse values, and are brought up to have a broad perspective and awareness through mutual understanding and exchange with people from around the world. Hopefully through these means, it can lead to the contribution for building an even

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eurasia.or.jp/en/foundation/idea/index.html>

better, conflict-free world in the future.

The quote “Those who only know one country know no country” (A. de Tocqueville) could also be expressed as “Those who only know Asia, actually do not even know Asia.” Asia needs to learn from the experience and wisdom of Europe, while Europe can seek inspiration from Asia. Through mutual understanding of our respective experiences, histories, cultures, and societies, we believe it can enable us to discover new possibilities for the next era.

When we look back in history, it goes without saying that studies to date have tended to view Asia from a Western perspective. From now on, we should not simply learn about Europe from Asia, but instead we would like to share our expectations and hopes for “creating a new community that transcends Asia and Europe” by understanding Europe.

From 2009 through to 2020, the Foundation has provided a platform that mainly centered on the Asia region. By looking ahead and focusing on the expansion of our activities globally, we believe that in this time, it is necessary to expand this platform, from Asia to regions including the Middle East and Europe. Based on this, we will change the name of our foundation from “One Asia Foundation” to “Eurasia Foundation (from Asia)” and will conduct our future activities under this new name.

For this reason, the Foundation will provide a new platform that changes focus from “Asia” to “Eurasia”. The various Asia-related research and questions that were raised to date are important, and we look forward to the future of those research. We would like to use such research as a groundwork from which we can go a step further and provide the next generation with opportunities to learn about an even wider and more diverse world. In a world that is becoming increasingly globalized, we must not limit our understanding to specific regions but instead understand the world from a diverse and broad perspective.

Our Foundation aims to “contribute to the elimination of conflicts around the world and the creation of a harmonious and peaceful society for every individual on earth” and provide a platform that anyone who shares the Foundation’s purpose and philosophy. Furthermore, the Foundation will continue its activities while maintaining its neutral stance as a private organization in the future, away from the influences by nations or organizations.

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ACTION<sup>2</sup>

1. All people and nations are welcome to participate: This Foundation wants to expand its basic vision throughout the world through various activities. In so doing, the Foundation will not be restricted by the preoccupied idea of the national border. It is true that race and nationality are important factors for the establishment of a

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2 <http://www.eurasia.or.jp/en/foundation/idea/principles/index.html>

person's identity, but these factors are the ones that must be transcended when he wants to be an international citizen in its true sense. Our Foundation and its activities are open to all people, irrespective of their nationality and ethnic origin.

2. Complete freedom of thought, belief, and religion: This Foundation will not restrict its members' any and every right regarding their freedom of thought, belief, and religion, nor will it engage in any activity make an exception for some specific thought, belief, or region. We believe that a person's freedom of thought and political or religious belief should be most highly respected.

3. No involvement in politics: This Foundation will not be involved in politics of any country, nor will it engage in any political activities. It will not, however, place any limit on its members' political action to be taken as a person.

Members of this Foundation are requested to comply with these three principles of action. These are rules to be observed when every activity of this Foundation is carried out and should be shared by all members as a common standard.

### 3. PROJECT *ASIAN COMMUNITY AND EUROPE*, UNIVERSITY FOR FOREIGNERS OF SIENA, ITALY SINCE 2020<sup>3</sup>

Born as a Centre of Italian for Foreigners, University for Foreigners of Siena (hereinafter "Unistrasi"), has always attached a great importance towards the cultural relations and mutual knowledge between Italy and the world, one of the two prestigious public institutions in Italy specialized in Didactics of Italian to Foreigners and Teaching foreign languages and studies, including European and Asian ones. In fact, in the early 2000s, Unistrasi inaugurated classes of Languages and Cultures from Asia, attracting more and more students from many regions of Italy.

Thanks to the support of the Eurasia Foundation (from Asia) (hereinafter "Foundation") the first three cycles of conferences entitled *Asian Community and Europe* has been organized between 2020 and 2023 at the Department of Humanities of University for Foreigners of Siena in Italy under the direction of Imsuk Jung, prof. of Korean language and literature. It has enabled Unistrasi to invite qualified professors and scholars from different countries and academic traditions. This project is offering a most valuable possibility to students and researchers from our university to be exposed to new input for their studies and their growth as human beings, who believe in dialogue between different cultures, to build together our ideal of global peace.

The Foundation is giving us precious support in our effort of creating bridges between Asia and Europe. We are convinced that this project promoted by the Foun-

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<sup>3</sup> Brief presentation drafted by Imsuk Jung, project director of *Asian Community and Europe*.

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dation has strengthened the cooperation between the institutions and created a solid network between faculty members and scholars involved in Asian Studies. As teachers of languages and cultures from Asia we are very grateful, and sincerely hope for future collaborations.

This present publication is promoted by the Foundation and contains the contributions of 11 speakers who gave lectures at Unistrasi. We once again would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the Foundation for the ongoing support.