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New Systems/New Models: The Importance of Networks

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New role for networks

- As important enablers of new forms of interaction in the cultural sector
- As facilitators of local cultural development & catalysts of international collaboration

Some discussion points

- What are the **new systems/models** emerging in the development & funding of networks?
- How are **innovative alliances** being built?
- What is the role of **information technology** in enabling networks?

New systems emerging?

- Move from cultural diplomacy to cultural co-operation
- From self presentation towards mutually beneficial co-operation
- New goal of establishing mutually beneficial co-operation focusing on increasing mutual understanding
- Emergence of ‘mutual cultural practice’
- Building sustained long-term connections
- Role of networks in enabling the above

New systems emerging?

- Emergence of a plurality of new players in international cultural co-operation
- Previously: State actors engaged in bilateral cultural diplomacy
- Now: New actors such as foundations, NGOs & networks, often focusing on multilateral co-operation

Support networks need

- Access to information
- Funding specifically for networks
- Support for alliance building

Access to information

- “Web platforms should now be considered as a modern day cultural institution.”
- Robert Palmer, European Commission
- <http://culture360.org>

Funding for networks

- ASEF Creative Networks
 - *Asia-Europe Network of Sustainable Heritage for Creative Economy*
 - Indian National Trust for Arts & Cultural Heritage/INTACH, Europa Nostra, International National Trust Organisations, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum, Yangon Heritage Trust
 - *Asia-Europe Artists' Residencies subnetwork of Res Artis*
 - Res Artis Foundation & Asialink
 - *Network as Learning Experience*
 - ENCATC - European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centers & ANCER-Asia-Pacific Network for Education & Research
- Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS)
- Community of Practice of Cultural Policy Researchers

Support for alliance building

- “New & heterogeneous stakeholder alliances will be necessary in the new networked environment.”
 - Colin Mercer, cultural policy researcher
- Civil society alliances, government-civil society alliances
- Local – international connections

Networks need to...

- Be “**anticipatory**” in these critical times (Yudhishtir Raj Isar, cultural analyst)
- Embrace heterogeneity & act as “**nodes**” within the cultural sector
- Become important “**knowledge base**” & impact policy (Mike van Graan, African Arts Institute)