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Sommario/riassunto	Asia's and Europe's discovery of each other dates back several hundred years and has undergone tremendous transformation. Their engagement was coloured by the history of colonialism, and interrupted by the heat of the Cold War. However, an important step to chart an equal partnership and deepen engagement was taken with the launch of the Asia-Europe Meeting in March 1996. The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) appeared the following year as the most concrete manifestation of this newfound engagement and as an attempt to engage the civil societies of the two regions.Professor Tommy Koh, a distinguis