

## ASIA HOUSE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024



# ASIA HOUSE

HOME OF BUSINESS – CULTURE – PEOPLE

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### Welcome to the August Asia House Newsletter

*Discover this month's highlights, updates and cultural delights*

Welcome Back!

We're happy to be back and fully energized after the summer break. The office is abuzz as we dive into our projects and upcoming events. From preparing for the TechBBQ summit in September to executing our next Living Asia event, there's plenty to look forward to.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights from our recent participation in the Roskilde Festival, a special visit to the Korean Embassy, and a festive summer gathering with the EAC Club. We will also say goodbye to our treasured colleague, Dorte. Finally, don't miss our feature on Amalie Niegel's insights into the Asia Studies program at KU and a fun monthly Asia insight covering August's ancestral festivals across Asia.

Here's to a great fall ahead! Stay tuned for all the latest updates.

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### We're Back and Charged After the Summer Break!

The office is now in full swing as we dive back into our projects. NAVA is gearing up for the TechBBQ summit happening in Copenhagen this September—read more about this on NAVA's latest [LinkedIn post!](#)



We're also busy preparing for our next Living Asia event, "Why Asia?", which is our semi-annual gathering that brings together young Asia-minded enthusiasts and professionals.

In short, we're all set for a fantastic fall. Stay connected on Asia House's [LinkedIn](#) for more updates and announcements!

## Harmonizing Sustainability and Innovation at Roskilde Festival



As part of Asia House's youth strategy and the SPACES project, our colleagues, Melissa Byberg (left), Torben Krab (middle), and Honar Abdollahi (right), guested this year's Roskilde Festival to participate in a significant event organized by The Circular Lab (Det Cirkulære Laboratorium). See [visuals from the day here](#).

The event was dedicated to exploring the intersections of sustainability, innovation and collaboration. Our team had the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities designed to foster these themes. Highlights of the day included:

- **Meetings with Circular Entrepreneurs:** Our team interacted with pioneering entrepreneurs who are developing innovative solutions in the circular economy.
- **Future of the Startup Ecosystem:** They participated in insightful discussions regarding the evolving landscape of the startup ecosystem.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The event provided valuable opportunities to connect with incubators, accelerators, and funding partners.

- **Festival Experience:** Beyond the formal sessions, they enjoyed the festival's vibrant offerings of music, art and activism.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Kristine Barenholdt Bruun, head of The Circular Lab, for extending the invitation, and to everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

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## Jutlandia's Legacy

Earlier this summer, our colleagues, Melissa and Honar, had the pleasure of visiting the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Denmark. During their visit, they discussed potential collaboration opportunities with a focus on the Asia House youth strategy.

In addition to this, they toured the embassy's notable Jutlandia exhibition. This exhibition commemorates the hospital ship, Jutlandia, which played a significant role during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. Notably, Jutlandia was owned by the East Asiatic Company.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to First Secretary, Sunha Kim, Political Affairs & Public Diplomacy Researcher, Subeen Gil, and Ambassador's Office Personal Assistant, Inger Justice, for their warm hospitality and insightful discussions.

You can enjoy a virtual tour of the Jutlandia exhibition on our [LinkedIn here](#).





## EAC-Club's Summer Event at Asia House



For those who might not know, Asia House (in its physical sense) once served as the headquarters for the historic East Asiatic Company (EAC). The bonds formed at the EAC have stood the test of time, fostering a unique sense of loyalty and belonging that persists even today, demonstrated by the existence of the EAC Club, whose members regularly meet.

This month was no exception! The EAC Club, comprising individuals connected

in various ways to the EAC, gathered at Asia House for their annual summer event. Almost 100 members reunited, sharing stories and memories. This year, the highlight was an auction featuring historical and original EAC-related pieces, all of which were eagerly bid on.

It is truly a unique experience to witness a community thriving around a shared company legacy, even so many years after - something often referred to as “the EAC spirit”. You can read more about the EAC Club [here](#) and see pictures from the event [here](#).

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## Thank You and Wishing You All the Best on Your New Journey, Dorte!



After almost five years of working for Asia House, our Head of Administrations, Dorte, is moving onto new and exciting opportunities. Dorte has been a valuable part of the Asia House team, and we want to express our gratitude for her dedication and contributions over the years.

Her organizational skills and energy have played an important role in our organization's success. We wish Dorte all the best in her new position and we are confident she will achieve great success in her future endeavors. Thank you from us at Asia House, Dorte — and wishing you all the best on your new journey!

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## Interview with Amalie Niegel: Guide to Thriving in the Asia Studies Program





Amalie Niegel is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in China Studies at the University of Copenhagen.

As she prepares to serve as a tutor for new students at the start of the new semester, we caught up with her to learn more about life as a student in the Asia Studies program. Amalie shares her experiences, insights, and advice for those embarking on this exciting academic journey.

### **Insights from Amalie:**

I study Chinese, so naturally, that is the program that I know the most about. In my understanding, the Asia Studies programs at the University of Copenhagen emphasizes understanding Asian cultures and countries through their native languages and on their terms. Students focus on acquiring skills in one of four languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Hindi) during the first two years of the four-year degree. This foundation allows them to later engage with e.g. Chinese sources when working within different areas of studies relating to our specialties, such as literature, politics, history, and social studies.

*“Despite its size, China wasn't covered in my high school curriculum, so my curiosity drove me to explore it.”*

### **A Love for Foreign Languages and Diverse Perspectives**

It's hard to define a typical Asia Studies student, but we all share an interest in languages, travel, and learning about different cultures. Personally, I knew little about China before starting my studies. I was intrigued by the challenge of learning a completely different language and worldview. Despite its size, China wasn't covered in my high school curriculum, so my curiosity drove me to explore it. Now, two years in, my curiosity remains strong, and I realize how much there is to learn, echoing the Socratic idea: "The more I learn, the less I realize I know."

## Motivation Matters

When studying languages, new students should take time to reflect on what motivates their learning. If you enjoy socializing, find a language partner or visit places with native speakers. If you love discovering music or shows, explore those in your target language.



My advice: make language learning enjoyable and avoid burdening yourself with tedious work.

*“The program encourages students to view themselves and their place in the world from a broader perspective.”*

## Broader Perspectives and Professional Edge

Completing a Bachelor's degree in any of the Asia Studies tracks equips students with the skills to understand, analyze, and translate texts in their target languages and communicate at a basic level. The program also encourages students to question how their values and worldview compare to others. I believe these skills will give me a professional edge when entering the globalized job market after graduation.



## Getting Involved and Finding Balance

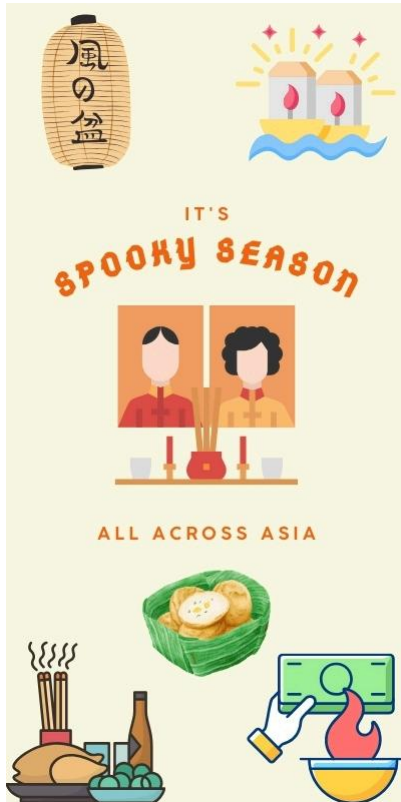
I encourage new students to get involved with our many student unions to get the most out of the program. Whether joining our language cafés, planning our "Friday Bars" or brewing coffee in our café, there are many ways to engage and meet people.

I've helped plan the Asia Students Association's book club and the podcast "Er det ik' Asien?" with the Asian Dynamics Initiative, where I discuss topics related to our programs and learn about podcast production.

While university life offers many opportunities, taking breaks and recharging with activities unrelated to Asia or university is also important. I'm excited to meet all the new students this fall, and I look forward to a week full of activities and another great semester!

Thank you to Amalie for sharing her insights and best of luck to all the new students beginning this September!

## This Just in - Your Monthly Asia Insight



### There's Something Spooky in the August Air: Honoring the Dead In Asia

From Japan to Laos, August is filled with festivals dedicated to honoring ancestors. In Japan, Obon lights up the night as families guide ancestral spirits back home with glowing lanterns. Meanwhile, in China and other countries, the Ghost Festival brings offerings to appease and honor wandering spirits.

In Laos, they celebrate Boun Ho Khao Padabdin, where people flock to temples with food and prayers for their ancestors. Now is a time when past and present come together, celebrating the enduring bond between families and their ancestral roots!

Need a venue? [Click here to browse our EventSpace!](#)

