

ASIA HOUSE NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



ASIA HOUSE

HOME OF BUSINESS – CULTURE – PEOPLE

Welcome to the May Asia House Newsletter

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

Stay tuned for real-time updates on Asia House activities [here!](#)

This month, we've been celebrating creativity, collaboration, and cultural connection - both in Denmark and abroad. From Nordic innovation taking off in Tokyo to cherry blossoms blooming in Copenhagen, and students bringing history and game design to life at Asia House, May has been packed with energy and purpose.

We're also proud to spotlight new voices, including the student-led initiative "Tættere på Asien" (Translated: "Closer to Asia"), and to share exciting educational milestones like the release of the first chapters of our colleague Peter Johansen's new textbook on Indian history.

Scroll down for this month's highlights and opportunities to get involved!

New Nordics Take Off in Tokyo



How do you spotlight Nordic innovation on the global stage? One way is by bringing regional changemakers to Tokyo - exactly what the Nordic Asian Venture Alliance (NAVA) did earlier this month.

As part of [SusHi Tech Tokyo 2025 on May 8-10](#), NAVA joined the first-ever New Nordic event at [Tokyo Innovation Base](#). Representing NAVA, Project Manager [Peter Johansen](#) took part in a dynamic and well-attended gathering focused on strengthening Nordic-Japanese innovation ties.

The program included a keynote by [Sindre Stemshaug Bornstein](#) ([Nordic Innovation](#)) and talks on the New Nordic Innovation Ecosystem and Japanese VC interest in the region. A highlight was the series of three-minute pitches from innovation hubs across the Nordics and Baltics - each offering a snapshot of local strengths.

Our colleague, Peter Johansen, presented the upcoming *New Nordic Innovation Ecosystem* report, developed in collaboration with JETRO - Japan External Trade Organization. Mapping over 400 organizations, the report highlights key sectors such as quantum tech, semiconductors, climate

solutions, and life science, while identifying strong potential for future collaboration between the New Nordics and Japan in deep tech, sustainability, and more.

[Learn more about NAVA here!](#)

In Full Bloom: Asia House at the Sakura Festival

Now, let us turn our attention to the cherry blossom trees. As an official sponsor of the annual Copenhagen Sakura Festival at Langelinje, Asia House's woman in the field, Melissa Byberg, attended the VIP opening ceremony. This included a warm front seat for the stage opening performances and speeches, followed by an intimate first-hand demonstration and experience of the Japanese traditional tea ceremony - a unique experience only few get to experience!

This year's festival was a tremendous success - reportedly the most visited to date - so we are very happy to have contributed to its realization. You can see a video we captured from the beautiful festival below!

ASIA HOUSE – THE EAC FOUNDATION



AT CPH SAKURA FESTIVAL 2025

Click on the picture to watch a video from the festival!

Follow along on our Instagram here!

**New Book from Asia House Project Manager
Brings Indian History to Danish Classrooms**



New Book Coming Soon

Asia House Project Manager Brings Indian History to Danish Classrooms

[Peter Johansen](#), Project Manager at [Asia House Denmark](#), and one of Denmark's dedicated India experts, is currently writing "Kampen om Indiens Historie" (Translated: "The Fight for the History of India"); a new textbook commissioned by [Systime](#) for the Danish high school curriculum. The first ten chapters are already live on Systime's platform, with the full release expected soon.

The book offers updated and accessible perspectives on Indian history, encouraging students to reflect on how history is used in today's political and cultural contexts. It also promotes learning about non-Western societies from non-Western viewpoints - a key step in broadening global understanding in Danish classrooms.

On 14 May, Peter also joined a webinar alongside editor and teacher Morten Hilligsø Munk, moderated by Mette Christensen from Systime. Together, they introduced the book's core themes and discussed how to teach Indian history at the upper secondary level.

Congratulations to Peter and everyone involved in bringing this book to life!

[Watch the webinar here!](#)

NEXT High School Students Present Escape Games at Asia House

EAC Escape Game



Throughout the last semester, a class of media high school students have been brewing on something very interesting in their course on digital game development. In collaboration with Asia House, the students have learned about the East Asiatic Company's (EAC) history to develop phone-based escape games, coupling EAC's legacy to the present and spicing it up with exciting game and mystery features. The games are created to take place right here in Asia House, converting our space into a real life "escape game".

Recently, these students (from Københavns Mediegymsnasium NEXT) visited Asia House to present their final prototypes of their Escape Games, and what a fun day it was.

The games were presented to Asia House's Melissa Byberg, Honar Abdollahi, Torben Krab, and Executive Director Susanne Rumohr Hækkerup. All prototypes were tested during the visit, and we were impressed with their creativity, storytelling, and talent.

Three of the games will now be further developed and showcased in the coming school year. Through this project, students explored EAC's history and helped preserve its legacy among new generations, marking this collaboration as an essential outcome of Asia House's youth strategy.

The visit concluded a months-long collaboration, which students documented through Instagram "takeovers" on Asia House's account.

Thank you to teachers Mikkel Hooge Holck and Mads Lønborg Høpfner - and to all the students - for their great work and enthusiasm!

Get involved with our Youth Initiatives here!

Spotlight: Tættere på Asien - Bridging Studies and Practice

What happens when students of Asian Studies decide to close the gap between academic knowledge and professional relevance? The result is "Tættere på Asien" (Translated: "Closer to Asia"), a student-led initiative founded by Emil Glahn (Japan Studies, University of Copenhagen) and Frode Bechmann Hübbe (China Studies, University of Copenhagen).



"Tættere på Asien is both a media platform that focuses on utilizing Asian Studies students' knowledge about specific topics in Asia and a hub that connects Asian Studies with more hands-on experiences as a means of building careers related to the field," explain Emil and Frode.



The initiative was born out of necessity. With the closure of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) and the Asian Dynamics Initiative (ADI), the founders saw an urgent need to create new pathways between the university and the outside world:

"We recognized a gap that needed to be filled. We thought we'd take this chance to create a student-driven initiative to fill that gap between Asian Studies and professional communities outside of academia."

Recently, *Tættere på Asien* hosted a workshop on writing about Asia for broader audiences, featuring Marlene Jensen, Asia Correspondent at *Weekendavisen*, and Viktoria Fuglsang Semenova, Editor-in-Chief of *rØST* magazine.

"The focus was on how Asian Studies students can use their knowledge to write for a broader audience; a skill we believe will be highly useful in the future, whether you're pursuing a career in journalism or simply want to communicate your expertise in a clear and engaging way."

Looking ahead, *Tættere på Asien* has ambitious goals:



"We want to put Asian Studies on the map. Through workshops, events, and our media platform, we aim to show students that their analytical skills and regional knowledge can be valuable assets in professional settings. At the same time, we plan to partner with private companies, public institutions, NGOs, embassies, and other organizations that might benefit from the insights and competencies we offer on Asia."

By combining academic depth with professional relevance, *Tættere på Asien* shows how student initiatives can help shape a more connected and Asia-aware Denmark.

Follow "*Tættere på Asien*" [here!](#)

Volunteer at Korea Festival 2025

Exciting times ahead! Korea Klubben is hosting a Korea Festival on **11–12 July** on Strøget - and they're looking for volunteers!

Whether you're into Korean food, culture, games, or just want to help out, this is a great chance to get involved. There's also a MiniG25 event for Korean adoptees from **11–13 July**.

To sign up, email vicepresident@koreaklubben.dk

[Read more about volunteering at the festival here.](#)
[Read more about volunteering at MiniG25 here.](#)





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

