Arts Residency Program Evaluation Summary
Results of survey of past residents and key partners, November 2005

For program information: http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/arts/residencies

A questionnaire was sent to 371 past residents asking for information about:

- Previous experience in Asia/host country prior to the residency
- Outcomes following the residency, including return travel, continued contact, publicity and specific projects
- The experience in terms of artistic practice and career development
- What was most valuable personally and professionally
- Any difference in evaluation of the residency now to when it was just completed
- Evaluation of Asialink's management and areas for improvement.

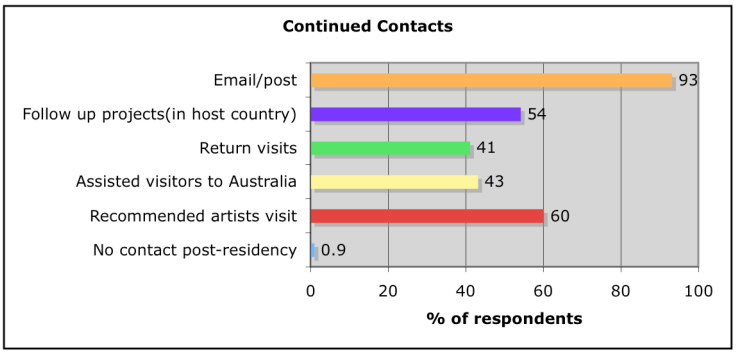
104 of 371 (30%) former residents responded to the survey (32 writers, 31 visual artists, 24 performing artists and 17 arts managers).

Findings

Previous experience in Asia/host country/other residencies

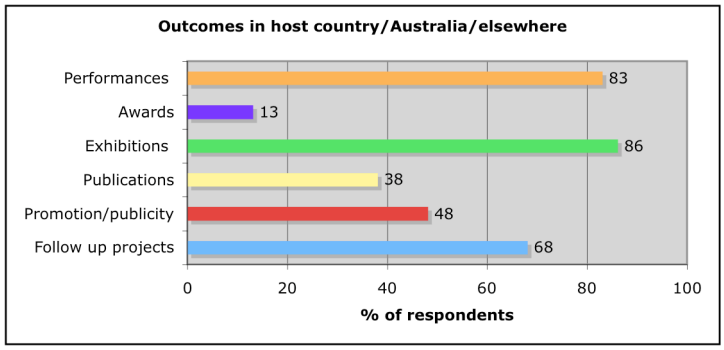
88% of respondents had already travelled in Asia; 63% in their host country.

Outcomes following the residency



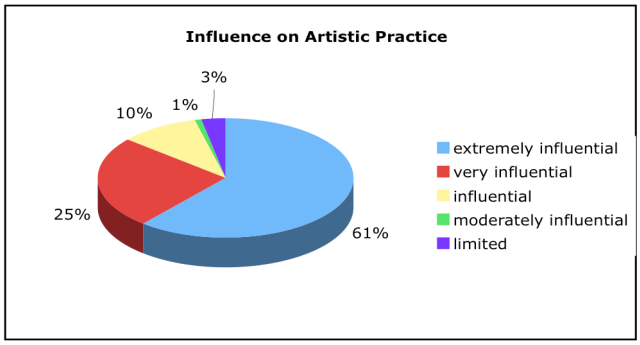
"We developed an MOU between the national Arts Council, Singapore and Arts Victoria. [Also] had a project by my organization, Multicultural Arts Victoria in 1999 in Singapore and still maintain contact and are currently about to embark on a joint project with The Necessary Stage and Parallelo for 2007." Fotis Kapetopoulos, National Arts Council - Festival of Asian Performing Arts, Singapore, 1997/8

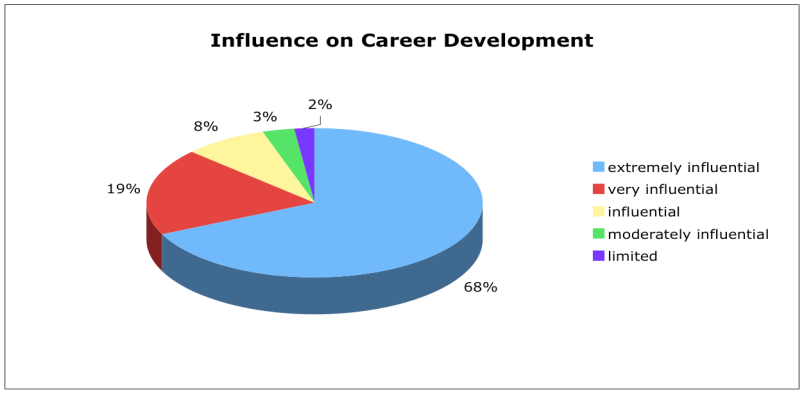
"An ongoing Australian Literature visitors program now happens at the University of Madras. This was helped by visits to Australia from Professors CT Indra and Eugenie Pinto from the University of Madras English Department that I helped organise." Lee Cataldi, Sankriti Kendra, India 1998/9



Artistic practice and career development

"It was a watershed in between my earlier career as a children's author and moving into a more adult style of writing". Gillian Rubinstein, Akiyoshidai International Art Village and Urinko Children's Theatre, Nagoya, Japan 1999





"In terms of career development, the Asialink residency is perceived extremely favourably by others I encounter in the arts industry and across the general community." Mandy Ridley, Khoj Workshop, New Delhi, India 2004

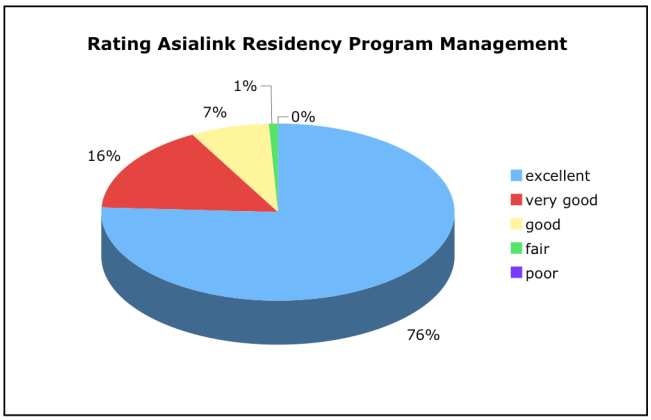
Value personally and professionally

- 75% of responses commented on the importance of this kind of meaningful cross-cultural engagement to an artist's development and more generally the development of a deeper understanding of Asia within Australia and vice versa
- 80% felt the residency had a substantial impact on them professionally: creating invaluable networks and relationships, a deepened understanding of arts practices in their host country, and a significant influence on the way they view art in general.

Change of evaluation

- 25% of respondents' views on the residency grew more positive over time, as they had time to process their experience, translate it into their work and consolidate relationships established
- 70% of respondents' views on their residency were consistent with those they had initially.

Asialink's management and recommendations for improvement



- more comprehensive post-residency follow-up, including funding for projects generated by the residency
- post-residency de-briefs and opportunities to meet with other Asialink alumni.
- more pre-departure information on the expectation of the host
- more structured residencies, however an equal amount of respondents valued the flexible nature of the residency.

Reference Group

A select group of residency hosts, funders and staff at Australian overseas posts were asked to provide comment on the Asialink Residency Program. In particular they were asked what the key outcomes of the Residency Program were in the context of their organisation and their community. They said the program:

- fosters artistic and institutional links between countries that extend well beyond the residency period
- creates opportunities to share expertise between countries through lectures, workshops, and collaborations
- promotes meaningful cross-cultural engagement/dialogue and understanding
- encouraged a high calibre of artists to undertake residencies within the Asian region.