



## Under Construction

### Furuichi Yasuko

“If we were to hold small-scale exhibitions in areas across Asia and see that from space, perhaps we would be able to perceive that as one big exhibition.”—“Under Construction,” a process-driven art exchange program held over a three-year period, was inspired from this somewhat romantic vision. The program structure comprised of three working seminars, field research, exhibitions at local venues, and the grand exhibition, was an unprecedented form of art exchange—essentially an experiment—at the time in 2000. In addition, none of the participants were able to envision the final shape of the project from the start and the outcome only materialized through the process. The exhibition was in every way, “under construction.”

The participants worked under the shared theme of “What is Asia?” and formed a network through the sense of solidarity that was nurtured among “us,” from which a collaborative space called “Asia” was created not just as a slogan but as a continual reality. The curators and artists who took part in “Under Construction” have become some of the leading curators and artists of Asia today. As a by-product, a guidebook of art spaces in Asia titled *Alternatives* was also published. “Under Construction” has ultimately become a model for ensuing development programs of the Asia Center, and was also applied to the collaborative art project “Condition Report” of the new Asia Center, established in 2014.



Exhibition view of "Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art," The Japan Foundation Forum, 2000  
Photo: Kioku Keizo



Exhibition view of "Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art," Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, 2002  
Photo: Kioku Keizo



Poster of "Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art," 2002  
Design: Terai Keiji



First meeting at the Japan Foundation, 2000

## Related Links

- The Japan Foundation Asia Center "Condition Report"  
<https://jfac.jp/en/culture/projects/condition-report/>
- The Japan Foundation Asian Art Archive "Under Construction"  
[https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/publish/asia\\_exhibition\\_history/28\\_02\\_underconstruction.html#new](https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/publish/asia_exhibition_history/28_02_underconstruction.html#new)