



## **The 22<sup>nd</sup> ASSITEJ World Congress Brave Futures**

22 July – 1 August 2027  
Suwon & Seoul, Korea

Calling For Performances For, With And By Children  
And Young People.

All Performing Arts Genres And Artistic Expressions Are Welcome.

### ***Children's Voices, Asia, and Possible Worlds***

Greetings from ASSITEJ Korea! Together with ASSITEJ International, we are delighted and excited to announce the Call for Performances for the ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival 2027 in Suwon & Seoul, Korea.

This Congress will take place exactly twenty-five years after the World Congress in Seoul was held in 2002. It offers a rare opportunity to reflect on how much the world, and theatre and performance for children and young people, have changed over a quarter of a century. It is also a long-awaited moment for many members who wished to attend the Tokyo 2021 Congress but could not due to the pandemic, to finally gather in Asia for this international celebration.

This Congress is about listening to children's voices, which have too often been overlooked or disregarded in many Asian societies, and about recognising that to hear them is, in fact, to hear ourselves. Children's voices remind us that listening to them is listening to humanity itself, and acknowledging their agency strengthens the creativity and democracy that sustain our societies. It is also about the unique perspectives that Asia, as the host region, can contribute to our global community, where deep traditions and rapid innovation coexist. And it is about the many possible worlds that lie before us in a time shaped by Artificial Intelligence (AI), global transformation, and uncertainty.

The Congress themes are a reminder that the future is not singular, but multiple, and that theatre and performance for young audiences can help us to reflect, to imagine, and to create new paths together.

We warmly invite artists and companies from around the world to submit their performances and to join us in Suwon & Seoul in 2027, to celebrate, to share, and to take a brave step into our futures.



## Call for Performances

**Focus:** Children's Voices, Asia, and Possible Worlds

In line with the spirit of Brave Futures, we especially welcome productions that engage with the participation of children and young people at some points, or that reflect their voices, experiences, and perspectives in meaningful ways.

We also invite works that embody the idea of brave futures — performances that are new, daring, or innovative, whether through their themes, their artistic language, or their creative approach. Performances that challenge conventions, open new questions, and imagine fresh possibilities for Theatre for Young Audiences will be celebrated in this Festival.

For performances from Asia, we particularly encourage works that reflect values rooted in this region, such as heritage re-imagined, harmony in diversity, or the meeting of tradition and innovation. These perspectives can bring a distinctive voice to the global dialogue and highlight Asia's role in shaping our collective futures.

### Invited To Apply Are:

- Performances that relate to the focus of the Congress as described above: (1) children's voices / child participation, (2) performances that embody the vision of "Brave Futures", and (3) Asian performances that reflect and re-imagine Asian values.
- Performances for and with all age groups, from babies to young adults.
- All performing arts genres, including circus, clown, comedy, dance, digital performance, immersive theatre, installation, mime, opera, puppet / object theatre, spoken word, storytelling, and site-specific.
- Performances that include children / young people as performers / creators.
- Performances created partially or fully to suit disabled or deaf audiences.
- Performances in all languages. If the performance is text-based, please consider in your application how you will make sure to communicate with local audiences that speak Korean.
- Performances that are tour-ready, with moderate cargo.
- Performances with deaf or disabled performers, technicians, or other team members. Access needs can be indicated in the application form.



## Restrictions:

- Performances produced before 2020 are not eligible. Companies from Korea and Asia are exempt from this rule.
- No company should apply with more than one (1) production. Companies from Korea are exempt from this rule.
- No company that has been selected for the *ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2025* or the *ASSITEJ World Congress 2024* can apply to this call. This will not apply if your performance is an international co-production and only one of your companies appeared in an *ASSITEJ International* event in the past 3 years.

## Online

Performances selected to be presented in Korea will be invited to provide a recording of the full performance to be shared online with professionals who are unable to travel to Korea.

## Economic Conditions

*ASSITEJ World Congress* is a unique platform for gathering members of *ASSITEJ* and all those passionate about the work that is done around the world for, with, and by children and young people. It does not operate as a market but as a connection point, and many hundreds of collaborations and opportunities have come from these gatherings. The economic conditions of participation in the World Congress are dependent on the economy of the host.

For the 22<sup>nd</sup> *ASSITEJ World Congress* in Korea, the hosts will cover:

- A modest performance fee, to be determined after selection
- Accommodation and meals for the performers, technicians, and other essential team members during setup and performing days
- Free registration and tickets to all performances and events during the Congress and Festival
- Local transport
- The hosts are aiming to support the international travel and cargo costs of performances coming from lower-income countries\*

## Post-Congress Activities

The organisers of the Congress will invite some of the selected productions to present in other regions of Korea and neighbouring countries after the Congress has ended. The possibility of post-congress touring will be discussed with each selected company.



## Accessibility

Contributors with access needs are encouraged to apply and are asked to indicate their needs in the application form. After the selection, the organisers will communicate with relevant applicants to support their participation within the economic capabilities.

## Deadline

The deadline for applications for the call for performances is Friday 1st May 2026.  
Applicants will be informed about the selection in October 2026

## How to Apply?

All applicants are asked to submit their applications through our online application:  
<https://assitej-international.org/events/assitej-artistic-gatherings-and-world-congresses/22nd-assitej-world-congress-open-call-for-performances/application-form-en/>

To help you prepare, you can view all the form questions [via this link](#) before filling out the form online.

## Questions

Questions related to the application can be sent to:  
[korea2027@assitej-international.org](mailto:korea2027@assitej-international.org)

The call document is available in English, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, French, Spanish, and a voice recording in English.



### List of Lower-Income Countries

Afghanistan	Guinea-Bissau	Philippines
Albania	Haiti	Rwanda
Algeria	Honduras	Samoa
Angola	India	São Tomé and Príncipe
Argentina	Indonesia	Senegal
Armenia	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Iraq	Sierra Leone
Bangladesh	Jamaica	Solomon Islands
Belarus	Jordan	Somalia
Belize	Kazakhstan	South Africa
Benin	Kenya	South Sudan
Bhutan	Kiribati	Sri Lanka
Bolivia	Korea, Dem. People's Rep	St. Lucia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Botswana	Kyrgyz Republic	Sudan
Brazil	Lao PDR	Suriname
Burkina Faso	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic
Burundi	Lesotho	Tajikistan
Cabo Verde	Liberia	Tanzania
Cambodia	Libya	Thailand
Cameroon	Madagascar	Timor-Leste
Central African Republic	Malawi	Togo
Chad	Malaysia	Tonga
Colombia	Maldives	Tunisia
Comoros	Mali	Türkiye
Congo, Dem. Rep	Marshall Islands	Turkmenistan
Congo, Rep.	Mauritania	Tuvalu
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Uganda
Cuba	Mexico	Ukraine
Djibouti	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Uruguay
Dominica	Moldova	Uzbekistan
Dominican Republic	Mongolia	Vanuatu
Ecuador	Montenegro	Viet Nam
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Morocco	West Bank and Gaza
El Salvador	Mozambique	Yemen, Rep.
Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar	Zambia
Eritrea	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Eswatini	Nepal	
Fiji	Nicaragua	
Gabon	Niger	
Gambia, The	Nigeria	
Georgia	North Macedonia	
Ghana	Pakistan	
Grenada	Papua New Guinea	
Guatemala	Paraguay	
Guinea	Peru	