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- [Forum](#)
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News: Asia In Comics 2004 - Comics by Asian Women

Posted on Monday, February 23 @ 18:08:58 2004 by [Staff](#)

[bckat](#) writes *"The 4th Asia In Comics exhibition (Feb. 21-22) focused on "The World of Comics by Asian Women." Two 3-hour panels were presented at The Japan Foundation Asia Center in Tokyo which featured guests from Indonesia, Philippines, and Japan. Yuu Watase was the speaker for Japan.*



Saturday's panel "Techniques for Editing Comics by Asian Women" featured women editors from Indonesia's Elex Media Komputindo, Korea's Seoul Cultural Publishers, the Philippines' Atlas Publishing, and Japan's Shogakukan. Sunday's panel "Asian Women Comic Artists - Secrets Behind Their Creations" featured artists Anzu Hizawa (Indonesia), So-Hee Park (Korea), Christina Francisco (Philippines), Foo Swee Chin (Singapore), and Yuu Watase (Japan). Tadao Kimura of Nihon Manga Gakuin moderated and associate professor

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Akiko Sajima of Fukuoka Jo Gakuin provided supplementary commentary.

In Indonesia, the comics market favors Japanese comics. Most Indonesian women comic artists are of high school- or college-age and view drawing as a hobby. But Anzu Hizawa's "Magic of Love" (2001) has sold as well as Japanese titles in that country.

Korea has had several booms in the sales of girls' comics, e.g., in the early 1960s and a shoujo manga-inspired boom in the late 1970s. So-Hee Park graduated from college with comic and arts training, highlighting there are many Korean schools for developing comic artists.

Christina Francisco is both a U.S.- and manga-style illustrator to meet the demands of the women reader-dominated Filipino market. She hopes to eventually have her own line of comics.

Singaporean Foo Swee Chin went from designer to full-time comic book artist. She lives on the savings of her previous job. Publishers view local talent as inferior. Also, the public's negative view of comics has only just recently changed due to the influx of manga and U.S. movies based on comic characters.

Kimono-clad Yuu Watase talked about how stressful and challenging it has been at times to be a manga artist. But as all the other panelists expressed, she loves what she does and that is what keeps her going.

A separate room held a wall and table display of comics from the countries of the represented comic artists.

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