



Raoul Wallenberg Institute
of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law



12 September 2011

Dear ASEM Senior Officials,

Reminder: 11th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: “National and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms”
23-25 November 2011, Prague, The Czech Republic

We are writing with regard to the 11th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights, on the theme “National and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms” which will take place on 23-25 November 2011 in Prague, the Czech Republic. **The French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Sweden, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and the Asia-Europe Foundation are pleased to invite each ASEM partner to nominate its official representative.**

The organisers are responsible for the identification and invitation of civil society participants.

The 8th ASEM Summit provided fresh impetus for the relations between our two regions in the field of human rights. The Summit’s Chairman’s statement reflected the ASEM members’ commitment to promote human rights in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. The Leaders expressed their appreciation of the dialogue carried out by ASEM partners through the informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights series as a platform to co-operate in the promotion and protection of human rights on the basis of equality and mutual respect. They also “encouraged cooperation with civil society given its important role in promoting human rights and in maintaining a functioning democratic society.”

The main objective of the 11th Seminar is to facilitate a dialogue on regional and national mechanism-building. Specifically, the Seminar **aims to develop recommendations to strengthen regional and national mechanisms in Asia and Europe.**

The seminar will begin with an opening plenary on the evening of 23rd of November with introductory messages and keynote speeches. The second day will be devoted to working group discussion which will focus on a) national human rights mechanisms; b) regional human rights mechanisms; c) procedural effectiveness of regional human rights mechanisms and d) multi-level architecture of human rights mechanisms. The closing plenary will feature the reports from the working groups and the seminar conclusions.

We encourage you to select from a wide range of possible participants such officials or experts from your National Human Rights Institution including your national human rights commission, representatives of regional bodies on human rights, representatives of your ministries of justice or home affairs, Human Rights ambassadors or ombudsmen.

The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights, launched in 1997, provides an arena for non-confrontational debate on human rights issues. Previous seminars have generated meaningful and constructive discussions on topics of common interest for both regions, bringing balanced and tangible benefits for ASEM partners.

This will be the largest dialogue event of this nature with over 120 participants. The following invitation arrangement has been put in place since the 7th Seminar in 2006 in order to ensure balance between Asian and European participants, modified now to include new ASEM partners:

1. From the 16 Asian countries: two civil society participants and one official representative each
2. From the 27 EU countries: one civil society participant and one official representative each
3. From Australia, New Zealand and Russia: one civil society participant and one official representative each

Please note that English will be the working language of the seminar. As is the usual practice, the organisers are pleased to provide 3 nights' hotel accommodation and hospitality as mentioned in the programme. Beyond this, each ASEM partner is asked to defray the costs of its official representative.

Kindly complete the nomination form attached with the name and contact details of the official (designation, address, telephone and fax numbers, email address) you would like to recommend by **Monday, the 26th of September 2010** to the seminar secretariat at ASEF. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Anjeli Narandran, Assistant Director for Intellectual Exchange, email: Anjeli.narandran@asef.org.

Thank you for your kind cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Frederic Tiberghien
Conseiller d'Etat
Representative of the
French Ministry of
Foreign and European
Affairs



Gudmundur Alfredsson
Professor &
Adviser to the Director
Raoul Wallenberg
Institute



Sol Iglesias
Director
Intellectual Exchange
Asia-Europe Foundation



Rosario Manalo
Philippine Commissioner
of the ASEAN Inter-
Governmental
Commission on Human
Rights (AICHR)

Encl: Draft Agenda of the 11th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights
Concept paper and Working Group Questions for the 11th Seminar
Background paper on the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights series
Nomination form