



Press Release

**Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum):
Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012**

Yogyakarta, Indonesia | 17-18 July, 2011

Press release no.: 110714_PR1115
14 July 2011

Asian, European experts study future of UN environment agencies

Should the United Nations create a World Environment Organisation? Close to four decades after the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was established, the international community must carefully consider how to manage highly complex environmental challenges that have emerged since. In this regard, the **Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)** will organise an experts' workshop to assess the options for the UN. About 30 experts from diverse backgrounds, including government, civil society, youth and the business sector will meet in **Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 17 to 18 July**.

Prof Dr Emil Salim, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President of the Republic of Indonesia on Economics and Environmental Affairs, will address the workshop participants. He is expected to comment on the debate in view of his experience as preparatory council Chairman of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The ENVforum will report on the outcomes of the workshop at the **High Level Dialogue on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development**. This Dialogue will be convened by the Indonesian government on 20 July 2011 in Solo. It is being held in the lead-up to next year's "*Rio+20*" UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil.

The first Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 marked a critical juncture where key global agreements on sustainable development principles, climate change, forests and biodiversity were pioneered.

The ENVforum was invited by UNEP to act as an interface between Asia and Europe to accompany the preparations for *Rio+20*. It is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies of Japan. The ENVforum will continue to organise *Rio+20* consultations for Asian and European stakeholders. These consultations will take place in Stockholm later this year and in Bangkok in early 2012.

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The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 500 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org