



Linking Human Rights to Business Actions

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) together with its partners organised the 14th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: Human Rights and Businesses on 18-20 November 2014, in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Press Release

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More Information

<http://bit.ly/14asemhumanrightsseminar>

"Beyond just corporate social responsibility (CSR), businesses have an important and direct influence on human rights", said Ms Marine DE CARNÉ, the French Ambassador for Bioethics and Corporate Social Responsibility. "In this regard, the 14th Informal ASEM Seminar was relevant because it raised this specific topic and addressed these issues within the ASEM framework", she added.

Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Viet Nam, the event had more than 130 participants including official representatives from ASEM countries as well as civil society members. Participants discussed key concerns of human rights and business involvement and developed policy recommendations for Asian and European decision-makers.

The closed-door, working group discussions during the seminar focused on: State duty to protect human rights against violations by businesses; Corporate responsibility and its contribution to human rights implementation; Monitoring, reporting and access to remedies; and Multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Mr Brice LALONDE, Advisor to the UN Global Compact, addressed the participants on the first day of the seminar.

About the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights series is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, and the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. The initiative promotes mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe in the area of political dialogue, particularly on human rights issues. ASEF has been the secretariat for the Seminar Series since 2000. Participation in the Seminar is by invitation only.

For more information, please visit
<http://bit.ly/14asemhumanrightsseminar>



About the Organisers



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. ASEF is a not-for-profit intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 650 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 17,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org



The **Raoul Wallenberg Institute** of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is an independent academic institution dedicated to the promotion of human rights through research, training and education. Established in 1984 at the Faculty of Law at Lund University, Sweden, the institute is currently involved in organising in Lund two Masters Programs and an interdisciplinary human rights programme at the undergraduate level. Host of one of the largest human rights libraries in the Nordic countries and engaged in various research and publication activities, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute provides researchers and students with a conducive study environment. The Institute maintains extensive relationships with academic human rights institutions worldwide.

For more information, please visit www.rwi.lu.se



The **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development**, as a founding member of ASEM, is pleased to have supported the ASEM human rights dialogue since its inception in 1997.

For more information, please visit www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/



The **Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs** is the prime agency of the Philippine government responsible for the pursuit of the State's foreign policy. It is also responsible for the coordination and execution of the foreign policies of the country and the conduct of its foreign relations.

For more information, please visit www.dfa.gov.ph



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