



PRESS RELEASE

ENVforum 2010 Conference "A Green Future: Asia and Europe Growing Sustainably"



1 - 3 September 2010 | Munich, Germany

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A Green Future: Asia and Europe Growing Sustainably

Key figures in international dialogue on environmental issues, **Prof Klaus Töpfer**, former German Minister of Environment and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); **Dr Markus Soeder**, Bavarian Minister of Environment and Health; and **Prof Rachmat Witoelar**, Indonesian President's Envoy for Climate Change, will open the **Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) 2010 Conference** on 2 September in Munich.

"From its inception in 2003, the Asia-Europe Environment Forum has truly served as a platform for dialogue and co-operation between Asia and Europe on environmental issues," Prof Töpfer said. "The Munich conference will bring us one step closer to the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012. I continue to count on the ENVforum to be the Asia-Europe voice and to be an important part of our collective efforts to secure a sustainable and green future."

The conference, entitled "**A Green Future: Asia and Europe Growing Sustainably**", will showcase twelve different workshops focusing on the **green economy, biodiversity, and environmental governance**. The event will run from 1 to 3 September and will bring together 150 international participants from 43 countries in Asia and Europe. The event is hosted by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

The recommendations from the meeting will be channelled by ASEF to the Leaders of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) during the ASEM8 Summit in Brussels in October 2010.

"Climate change is the biggest challenge to our future. It cannot be addressed with a fragmented approach and will need global consensus and efforts," said Prof Rachmat Witoelar. "Asia and Europe have much to learn from each other, and the Asia-Europe Environment Forum continues to be the vehicle for sharing knowledge between the two regions."

The ENVforum is a flagship project of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES-Japan), the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ASEF has been actively involved in promoting dialogue on environmental issues between Asia and Europe since 2003. <http://env.asef.org>

Note to editors:

Members of the media are **invited to the opening plenary session on 2 September from 09h00 – 12h00**.

Attached are the profiles of speakers for the opening plenary. If you or your representative wish to conduct interviews with those listed, please contact:

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About the Organisers:



The Asia-Europe Foundation 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 450 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 43 member states (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, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org



Based in Munich, Germany, the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a German political foundation with 35 years of experience in civic education in Germany and international co-operation around the world. For more information, please visit <http://hss.de/english.html>



The Swedish Environmental Secretariat in Asia (SENSA) is the arm of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). It provides enhanced opportunities for a dialogue with regional partners with an environment focus, thereby strengthening Swedish co-operation in the area of environmental action. For more information, please visit <http://sida.se>



Established in 1998, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is an independent, not-for-profit think tank, based in Japan. It goes beyond research to provide practical ways to protect the earth's environment and to realise greater sustainability and equity in the global community. While the outlook of IGES is global, the principal geographical scope of its activities is Asia and the Pacific region, an area which is experiencing rapid economic development and which will affect the global environment through its population growth, urban environmental problems and other environmental issues. For more information, please visit <http://iges.or.jp>

The participation of the IGES in this endeavour is made possible with the support of the government of Japan.



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. For more information, please visit <http://www.unep.org>

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