



ASEF DEMOCRATISATION AND JUSTICE SERIES

LECTURE ON  
**LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS TO SECURITY AND  
DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

**Programme**

- 5:30pm Registration**
- 6:00pm Welcome Remarks**  
Bertrand Fort  
*Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation*
- 6:10pm Lecture: “Linking Human Rights to Security and Development: Challenges and Prospects”**
- Chair:**  
Mr Peter Ryan  
*Director, Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation*
- Speaker:**  
Prof. Kevin Boyle  
*Head of Human Rights Center, University of Essex (UK)*
- 6:45pm Remarks by discussant**  
Dr. Cherian George  
*Deputy Head, Journalism Programme, Nanyang Technological University*
- 7:00pm Question & Answer Session**
- 7:30pm Wine & Cheese Reception**

**Abstract:**

At the 2005 World Summit at the United Nations the then 191 member states declared:

*We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognise that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.*

Precisely how are these goals of global order ‘inter-linked and reinforcing’? What are the concrete implications for the implementation of international human rights of linking their promotion and protection to development peace and security?

The call for connectedness was propounded in the two core documents prepared for the World Summit. The first, *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility* was the report of an independent High Level Panel of experts appointed by the then Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to review new and existing threats to international peace and security. The second, *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights For All*, was the Secretariat’s follow-up report.

A major theme of both reports is that future policies for human betterment and even survival must reflect the complexity of the challenges that face a globalised and increasingly unequal world. But they also stress that we are far from achieving such policies.

How open are human rights advocates, governmental and non- governmental, to building bridges to development and security goals? How open are development and security specialists to reciprocal bridge building? What has been the experience so far of efforts to do so?

### **Profile of Speaker**



**Kevin Boyle** is professor of Law at the University of Essex UK and a barrister at law with extensive experience of litigation before the European Court of Human Rights. He is director of the University's Human Rights Centre. He was educated at Queens University Belfast, Cambridge University and Yale University.

In 2001 -2002 he worked for the United Nations in Geneva as Senior Adviser to Mary Robinson during her last year as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. He has also been a consultant to the United Nations on human rights issues.

Born in Northern Ireland he moved to the Republic of Ireland in 1978 as Professor of Law at the National University of Ireland Galway where he founded the Irish Centre for Human Rights. He later moved to London and was the first Director of the NGO *Article 19: the Global Campaign against Censorship*. In 1990 he was appointed to Essex University where he built the University's world renowned Human Rights Centre.

He has been involved for many years in the struggle for human rights and the peaceful political resolution of the Northern Ireland conflict. He is also a member of the International Council of the NGO *Minority Rights Group International*.

### **Profile of Discussant**



**Cherian George** is a media scholar and journalist from Singapore. His research and writing focus mainly on social movements. He is the deputy head of the journalism programme at the School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University.

Cherian is the author of *Contentious Journalism and the Internet: Towards Democratic Discourse in Malaysia and Singapore* (Singapore University Press & University of Washington Press, 2006). He holds a doctorate in communication from Stanford University, and degrees from the universities of Cambridge and Columbia. Before joining academia, he spent 10 years as a journalist at Singapore's national daily, *The Straits Times*, where he wrote mainly on media and politics.

He continues to work as a practising journalist, as editor and publisher of *What's Up*, an independent monthly current affairs newspaper for children. *What's Up* 's mission of "values-driven journalism" places multi-culturalism at the top of its agenda. Its regular features include a comic strip promoting respect for cultural diversity, "Diversi-team". Cherian is now working on a book version of the comic series.

#### **About the ASEF Democratisation and Justice Series**

The Democratisation and Justice Series is a platform to engage in exploring differences, similarities and challenges of democratisation processes, particularly in countries undergoing political transition in Asia and Europe.

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