

**PRESS RELEASE**

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# How can social enterprises contribute to a sustainable global economy?

**The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the British Council will co-host a Public Event, 'The Role of Social Enterprise in Developing a Sustainable Global Economy', on Monday 15 July 2013 at the Mercator Centre in Berlin, Germany.**

This event will feature two leading experts on Social Enterprises (SE) from Asia and Europe: Mr Muhammad A. (Rume) ALI, Managing Director, Enterprises & Investments at BRAC (Bangladesh) and Ms Penny NEWMAN, Chief Executive Officer, Funktional Group/Plant for Peace. The speakers will share their expertise and experience on how Social Enterprises are impacting economies in their respective regions. Their presentations will be followed by an open discussion session, moderated by Dr Volker THEN, Managing Director, Centre for Social Investment (Germany).

This public event will be followed by a closed Policy Dialogue on Tuesday 16 July in Berlin. Senior policy influencers from across Asia and Europe will come together for this day-long dialogue to share and learn from experiences in the Social Enterprise sector in the two regions. About 39 Asian and European representatives from about 26 Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)<sup>1</sup> countries will be participating in this dialogue.

Talking about the importance of this Policy Dialogue, Mr Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF's Deputy Executive Director, says: "At ASEF we believe that effective policy support can help social enterprises to contribute in developing a sustainable global economy. And in this regard both Asia and Europe have a great deal to learn from each other by sharing best practices to provide better business environments for social enterprises".

A policy brief outlining the key lessons learnt from the discussions and recommendations for future inter-regional dialogues on Social Enterprise, will be jointly published by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and British Council immediately after the event on 16 July.

For further information, please visit <http://bit.ly/15GLP57>

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<sup>1</sup> The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation which fosters political dialogue, reinforces economic cooperation, and promotes cooperation in other areas. It brings together 49 member states (29 European and 20 Asian countries), the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people and institutions of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of governance, economy, sustainable development, public health, culture, and education. Founded in 1997, ASEF is a not-for-profit, intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. It is the only permanently established institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 600 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](http://www.asef.org)



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