MEDIA RELEASE

Second Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights
27 – 29 June
Beijing, China

The Asia-Europe Foundation, ASEF, is co-organising with China, France and Sweden’s Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, an Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights from 27 – 29 June in Beijing.

The Beijing Seminar aims to broaden and deepen the human rights dialogue between Asia and Europe and will focus on 3 areas:

- **Differences in Asian and European Values**
  - While Western countries tend to emphasize individual rights, other countries focus on the community or peoples’ rights. Is there a contradiction between individual and collective rights? Can the two approaches be reconciled?

- **The Right to Education**
  - Implications of the right to education as articulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

- **Minority Rights**
  - Persons belonging to many minorities suffer from discrimination in their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. The prevalence of ethnic conflicts and the potential of the conflicts to spill across international borders point to an urgent need to find solutions to minority rights problems.

Speakers at the Seminar include Tommy Koh, ASEF Executive Director and Singapore’s Ambassador-at-Large; and Emmanuel Decaux, Universite de Paris X, France.

The Beijing Seminar is co-financed by China, France, Sweden, and ASEF (with support from the EC Trust Fund) and is the second in a series of four seminars. The first took place in Sweden in December 1997. The third will be held in France and the fourth in Indonesia.

For more information about the Beijing Seminar, please contact the following:

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ASEF seeks to promote better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.  
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