



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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International Experts on Access to Justice to gather in Bogor, Indonesia 27-28 June 2005

Officials from the Council of Europe, the Office of the European Ombudsman, the Asian Ombudsman Association, national human rights commissions, researchers and academics from Asia and Europe will gather for a 2-day workshop in Bogor, Indonesia, **27-28 June 2005**, to exchange experiences and discuss co-operation on improving access to justice in both regions.

"Countries that have undergone dramatic political upheaval find many common heartaches and pain in our national histories, but also the firm resolve to strengthen the pursuit of justice," says Dewi Fortuna Anwar, former Indonesian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and now Associate Director for Research at the Habibie Center, which co-organises the conference with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Jakarta office) and the Asia-Europe Foundation. *"Waves of democratization that swept through Eastern Europe at the end of the Cold War and throughout Southeast Asia in the past two decades resonate—we have much to learn from each other,"* Anwar adds.

The workshop will consist of three sessions:

- **Guaranteeing Access to Justice through Constitutional and Legal Reforms:** How could the vestiges of the past be addressed?
- **Case Studies Across Asia and Europe:** How well have the ombudsman, human rights commissions, and free legal aid mechanisms worked?
- **Creating a Culture of Openness and Public Empowerment:** Are Words Enough?

The main objective of the workshop is to identify specific issues and concrete follow-ups for international cooperation projects involving the institutions represented by the participants. Among the twenty five experts and officials expected to attend are: Dr. Roel **Fernhout**, National Ombudsman of the Netherlands; Prof. Ian **Harden**, Professor of Public Law, Sheffield University and Legal Adviser to the European Ombudsman, Strasbourg; H.E. Neou **Kassie**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Cambodia; HE Prof. Dr. Jimly **Asshidiqie**, SH, Chairman of the Constitutional Court, Indonesia and Young-Hoang **Cho**, President of the National Human Rights Commission and Former Chief Ombudsman, Korea.

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