



PRESS RELEASE

Asia-Europe Lecture Tour:
"The Establishment of an Ombudsman Institution"
By Prof. Dr. Roel Fernhout

Jakarta – Phnom Penh – Vientiane – Hanoi – Ulan Bator

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Asia-Europe Foundation organises Public Lecture in Mongolia on the Ombudsman Institution

Ulan Bator, 11 November 2009 – Today, the question of whether Mongolia is ready to establish an ombudsman institution is being revisited. In the early 1990s, a public debate began in Mongolia on the need for an ombudsman. It was considered at the time that Mongolia was not ready for this. Contributing to this renewed public debate, the National University of Mongolia together with the Asia-Europe Foundation has invited Professor Roel Fernhout, a former Ombudsman of the Netherlands, to share his insights on 13 November.

Prof Fernhout will address students, faculty staff and civil society participants. His speech is expected to throw light on how an ombudsman institution can be an alternative road to justice. He will also speak on developments of the ombudsman institution in established as well as new democracies.

"The role of an ombudsman is to support democratic processes and the rule of law through the defense of human rights. I hope that this exchange of experiences and good practices of ombudsman institutions will be beneficial for the audience," said Prof Fernhout.

Prior to the public panel, Prof Fernhout will have a separate meeting with Members of the Parliament and representatives of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia and will discuss in detail the role of an ombudsman and the challenges in terms of setting up an ombudsman institution.

Prof Fernhout's visit to Ulan Bator is organised by the Asia Europe Foundation in partnership with the National University of Mongolia, Citizen's Alliance Centre and Women for Social Progress. It forms part of ASEF's Asia-Europe Lecture Tours programme. This programme brings opinion leaders from each region to tour the opposite region, and engages them in discussions hosted by civil society organisations or government institutions in the host country.

"Countries in Asia and Europe follow different political systems," said Ambassador Dominique Girard, ASEF Executive Director. "There is much to gain from sharing experiences. We are happy to organise our first ASEF activity in Mongolia on such an important topic."

There will be an opportunity for the media to conduct interviews with Prof Roel Fernhout. Interested media should contact:

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