



# PRESS RELEASE

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PR19/01

5 November, 2001

“A Greater Need for Effective Governance in a Globalising World: Lessons to be Learned in Asia and Europe”

## **Third ASEF Young Parliamentarians Meeting 2001**

The Third ASEF Young Parliamentarians Meeting (YPM) 2001 saw 52 young parliamentarians from Asia and Europe closely interacting with their counterparts from the other region. Held in Bali, Indonesia from 1 November to 4 November, the YPM provided the participants with a platform to build personal networks between Asia and Europe.

Organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the YPM created a conducive setting for open and informal discussion of difficult issues such as the recent Political and Social Changes in the two regions, Challenges of Globalisation as well as Comparative Perspectives of Good Governance. The parliamentarians participated in their own capacity and did not necessarily represent their political groups.

Mr Graham Watson, a British Member of the European Parliament, European Liberal Democrat Reform Party, in his speech on changes in Europe, commented about how the attacks of September 11 have affected the unity of the European Union (EU).

“The EU’s rapid and united response shows how far and how quickly the Union has grown,” said Mr Watson. “The fact that some of those behind the attack had plotted it on European soil has led to rapid moves towards a European arrest warrant to replace cumbersome extradition procedures.” He added that “a long-delayed EU directive to crack down on money laundering was approved within days. Co-operation between police forces has similarly been stepped up. Indeed, Osama bin Laden may have done more for EU integration than anybody since German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.”

Speaking about the Changes and Challenges for Policy-Making in Asia, Dr Nereus Acosta, Member of the Philippines House of Representatives said “the challenge is to deal with the tensions between

the tenacity of practices of patronage-based, populist, and personalistic politics and the mounting imperatives for more transparent, accountable and responsible institutions of government.”

“The recent upheavals in my home country, leading to the ousting and subsequent trial of a monumentally corrupt president, underscored these real tensions between the ‘ways of old’ and the ‘demands of new’. In this respect, what is needed to be addressed are laws that reform the justice system, cleaning up the courts, as it were, and strengthening the institutions and processes for democratic redress and renewal” added Dr Acosta.

Also in attendance during the meeting was Hon A Muhaimin Iskandar, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Republic of Indonesia.

*[ A list of speeches follows and full transcripts and details are available upon request. ]*

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### **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**

ASEF was established in 1997 by 26 members (10 Asian countries and 15 EU member countries, plus the European Commission) of the first Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF's mission is to promote better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchange.

# ANNEX

## **Transcripts available**

### **1.Changes and Challenges for Policy-Making in Asia**

Presented by:

Dr Nereus Acosta

Member of the House of Representatives

Republic of the Philippines

### **2. The Sociopolitical Development in Southeast Asia and its Implications to Indonesia**

Presented by:

Hon. Mr. Djoko Susilo, MA, MP

Member of the House of Representatives

Republic of Indonesia

### **3. A regional perspective: The case of saxony**

Presented by:

Mr Lars Rohwer

Member of the Parliament of Saxony

Germany

### **4. Demographic, Electoral and Institutional Changes in Europe**

Presented by:

Mr Graham Watson

Member of the European Parliament

European Liberal Democrat Reform Party

### **5. Comparative Perspectives on Good Governance in Asia and Europe**

Presented by:

Dr Willem van der Geest

Director, European Institute for Asian Studies

Belgium

### **6. Panel Discussion on “The Role of Government in Developing Corporate Governance”**

Reference Notes by:

Mr Gerald A. Sumida

General Counsel

Asian Development Bank

### **7. Panel Discussion on “The Role of Government in Developing Corporate Governance”**

Reference Notes by :

Mr Simon Wong

Former Counsel

Corporate Affairs Division

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

## **8. Connecting People - Connecting Legislators**

Presented by:

Mrs Pii-Noora Kauppi

European People's Party

European Democrats in the European Parliament

### **Other available information:**

- Participants List
- Programme