

# Asia-Europe Meeting on Human Rights and Environment

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **MORE INFORMATION**

<http://bit.ly/18AnKYL>

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<http://tinyurl.com/ASEFmedia>

Over 140 international representatives from 48 ASEM<sup>1</sup> member countries participated in the '13<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEM Human Rights Seminar' on 21-23 October in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Speaking at the opening plenary, Ms Ida AUKEN, the Danish Minister of the Environment, said: "This ASEM Seminar is raising a very important question namely the relation between the environment and human rights. We sometimes seem to forget that it is the basic human right to be able to breathe clean air, drink clean water and live on a earth that is not contaminated by chemicals".

This 3-day meeting on 'Human Rights and the Environment' was hosted by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Institute for Human Rights and focused on the interaction between human rights and the environment, sustainable development and climate change.

Professor John KNOX, UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment, and Dr Poul ENGBERG-PEDERSEN, Managing Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) were among the other keynote speakers at this event.

The closed-door working group discussions during the seminar focused on: the Interaction between Sustainable Development, Environment and Human Rights; Access to Information, Participatory Rights and Access to Justice; Actors, Institutions and Governance; and Climate Change and Human Rights Implications.

The '13th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: Human Rights and the Environment' was organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) together with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.

### About the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights series was initiated by France and Sweden at the 1st ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 1997. In 2011, the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines joined the Seminar series as an organiser. The aim of this initiative is to promote mutual understanding and co-operation between Europe and Asia in the area of political dialogue, particularly on human rights issues. ASEF has been the secretariat for the Seminar series since 2000.

For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/18AnKYL>

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<sup>1</sup> ASEM: Asia-Europe Meeting (For more info, please visit [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org))

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, sustainable development, economy, governance and public health. ASEF is a not-for-profit, intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only 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)



The **Raoul Wallenberg Institute** of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is an independent academic institution dedicated to the promotion of human rights through research, training and education. Established in 1984 at the Faculty of Law at Lund University, Sweden, the institute is currently involved in organising in Lund two Masters Programs and an interdisciplinary human rights programme at the undergraduate level. Host of one of the largest human rights libraries in the Nordic countries and engaged in various research and publication activities, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute provides researchers and students with a conducive study environment. The Institute maintains extensive relationships with academic human rights institutions worldwide.

For more information, please visit [www.rwi.lu.se](http://www.rwi.lu.se)



The **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, as a founding member of ASEM, is pleased to have supported the ASEM human rights dialogue since its inception in 1997.

For more information, please visit <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>



The **Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs** is the prime agency of the Philippine government responsible for the pursuit of the State's foreign policy. It is also responsible for the coordination and execution of the foreign policies of the country and the conduct of its foreign relations.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dfa.gov.ph>

## ABOUT THE HOSTS



The **Danish Foreign Service** comprises the Ministry in Copenhagen and a global network of Embassies, Consulates-General and Trade Commissions. The network of diplomatic missions abroad is the backbone of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and provides the basis for enabling the Ministry to safeguard and promote Denmark's international interests.

In Denmark the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is organized according to the following main areas of activity: Foreign and Security Policy, European Policy and EU Coordination, Development Policy, Global Cooperation, Export and Investment Promotion and Trade Policy. In addition there are departments handling Consular Services, i.e. provision of assistance to Danes in distress abroad, Public Diplomacy and Communication, Protocol and Resources.

For more information, please visit [www.denmark.dk](http://www.denmark.dk)



The **Danish Institute for Human Rights** is Denmark's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). The institute was established by a parliamentary decision in 1987.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights protects and promotes human rights both in Denmark and internationally. We aim at setting standards and engendering change.

For more information, please visit [www.humanrights.dk](http://www.humanrights.dk)