



# ASEM Seminar to Address the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Asia & Europe

**The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), together with its partners, is co-organising the 16<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEM<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Seminar: Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights, 8-10 November 2016 in Beijing, China.**

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## Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

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Singapore

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### More Information

<http://bit.ly/HRights2016>



This will be the largest gathering on human rights between Asia and Europe. The protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities is the focus of the seminar.

*"10 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD), people with disabilities continue to face violence and discrimination on a daily basis. The lack of recognition and enjoyment of their human rights affects many aspects of their lives such as education, employment, housing, access to public services and spaces, as well as political participation. Many of these issues will be discussed at length during the seminar in China",* said Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF's Executive Director.

The 3-day meeting, hosted by the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the China Disabled People's Federation, and China University of Political Science and Law, will bring together more than 120 participants, including senior government officials, human rights ambassadors, academics as well as disability experts and advocates from the two regions.

Participants will discuss key concerns and develop policy recommendations for Asian and European decision-makers. The closed-door working group discussions during the seminar will focus on various aspects of the topic including: Participation in Political and Cultural Life; Social and Economic Inclusion; Legal Status, Justice and Remedy; and National Implementation and International Cooperation.

The rapporteurs, Prof. Gerard QUINN, Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy of the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway and Ms LI Xiaomei, Deputy-Director General of the International Department of China Disabled Persons' Federation, will gather key messages, which will then be shared with civil society members and ASEM governments .

### **About the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights:**

The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights series is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The initiative promotes mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe in the area of political dialogue, particularly on human rights issues. ASEF has been the secretariat for the Seminar Series since 2000. Participation in the Seminar is by invitation only.

For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/HRights2016>

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<sup>1</sup> The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 members: 21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

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## About the Organisers

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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, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Together with about 750 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 700 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 20,000 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)

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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)

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The **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development**, 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 [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/)

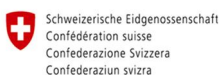
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The **Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs** is the prime agency of the Philippine government responsible for the pursuit of the State's foreign policy. It is also responsible for the coordination and execution of the foreign policies of the country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

For more information, please visit [www.dfa.gov.ph](http://www.dfa.gov.ph)

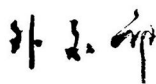
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The **Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA)** forms and coordinates Swiss foreign policy on behalf of the Federal Council, pursues foreign policy objectives, safeguards the interests of Switzerland and promotes Swiss values.

For more information, please visit [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch)

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This event is hosted in partnership with the People's Republic of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the China Disabled People's Federation and China University of Political Science and Law.



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