



## **Asia-Europe Environment Forum Track II Series**

### ***Outlook from Copenhagen – Next steps for Asia and Europe***

#### **Policy Dialogue**

Brussels, Belgium | 17 December 2009  
10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Representation of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union  
Rue Belliard / Belliardstraat 60-62  
1040 Brussels

### **CONCEPT**

#### Objectives

The policy dialogue will give an overview of some of the key questions for Asia and Europe currently discussed at the COP15, also covering the issue of REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Further, the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan will be introduced as a crucial tool in the battle against climate change due to its essential role in raising awareness and building knowledge among the young generation. The expected outcome of the event is to raise awareness among decision-makers in Europe about the significance of partnerships between Asia and Europe in the area of climate change and sustainable development.

#### Context

The Asia-Europe Foundation under its Asia-Europe Environment Forum together with the Brussels office of the Hanns-Seidel Foundation will organise a policy dialogue on the issue of sustainable development and climate change in December 2009 in Brussels. Following from a side-event in Copenhagen alongside the UNFCCC negotiations, the seminar will give a debriefing of the current status of the negotiations with a focus on Asia-Europe cooperation.

Climate change caused by emissions of greenhouse gases is one of the gravest challenges facing humanity. The countries of Southeast Asia will be hit particularly hard by climate change. Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are especially vulnerable because of their large coastal populations facing rising sea levels and rely heavily on rice and other agriculture products which could suffer from water shortages as well as floods. European countries will also feel the various impacts of climate change due to more extreme weather events and an overall change in climatic conditions that will also affect the agricultural cycle.

If Europe as well as the Asian nations delay action on climate change, their economies and people will ultimately suffer. If nothing is done to combat global warming, experts say that by 2100 the four Asian countries would see temperatures rise on an average of 4.8 Celsius from the 1990 level. They would also likely suffer drops in rainfall, more destructive tropical storms and flooding from rising seas that could displace millions of people and lead to the destruction of 2,500 square kilometres of mangroves.

The UNFCCC COP15 negotiation round in December 2009 is widely regarded as the last chance to come to a post-Kyoto agreement on emission reductions. Shortly before the official end of the high-level segment in Copenhagen, this event will provide a hot-from-the-oven debrief of what is at stake for Asia and Europe in the final negotiations.

#### Expected Outputs

- Provide an update of the state of negotiation in Copenhagen with special regard to Asia-Europe relations
- Raise awareness among decision-makers in Europe about the significance of partnerships between Asia and Europe in the area of climate change and sustainable development.
- Produce a policy brief on the outcomes of Copenhagen for decision-makers in ASEM countries

<b>Programme</b>
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- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Welcome Remarks  
**Eike Peveling**  
Representation of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg to the EU  
**Christian Forstner**  
Director, Brussels office, Hanns-Seidel Stiftung
- 10.45 Policy Dialogue  
Moderator:  
**Ms Sol IGLESIAS**  
Director, Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation & Coordinator,  
Asia-Europe Environment Forum
- Speakers:  
**Mahesh Pradhan**  
Director, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP  
Bangkok  
**Dr. David Stanners**, (tbc)  
Head of International Cooperation  
European Environment Agency  
**Masanori Kobayashi** (tbc)  
Coordinator, Programme Management Office  
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- 11.45 Q & A session
- 12.30 Summary and Closing Remarks  
**Dr. Ulrich Klingshirn**  
Director Hanns-Seidel Foundation, Indonesia
- The policy dialogue will be followed by a buffet lunch

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## About the organisers

### **Asia-Europe Foundation**

The Asia-Europe Foundation promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM. Since then, ASEF has implemented over 350 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe.

ASEM now brings together 43 member states (Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. For more information, please visit <http://asef.org>

### **Asia-Europe Environment Forum**

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) is a platform for dialogue and debate on sustainable development issues. It is:

The only multi-stakeholder forum on environment between the two regions;

- A recognised reference point for Asia and Europe consensus on sustainable development;
- An interface between government and civil society for policy recommendations;
- An Asia-Europe network on sustainable development; and,
- A contributor to the agenda of the ASEM Environment Ministerial and other Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) fora.

The ENVforum was initiated in 2003 by the Asia-Europe Foundation and is co-organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies of Japan and the United Nations Environment Programme. The Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA) came on board as a co-organiser in 2006. The Korean Environment Institute (KEI) was a partner in 2008. For more information, please visit <http://env.asef.org>

### **Hanns-Seidel Foundation Brussels Office**